



THE TIMES

Tomorrow

Protection...
Eugene V. Rostow argues that the US is duty-bound to support the Government of El Salvador.

Racket
Rex Bellamy reports from Flushing Meadow on the year's last major tennis tournament, the US championship.

Rabbit...
John Updike, creator of the celebrated "Rabbit" Angstrom, is the subject of *The Times* Profile, written by Malcolm Bradbury.



Punch
On the third anniversary of the agreement that legalized Solidarity, Roger Boyes in Warsaw asks whether the Polish Government will ever heed the warning of the Gdańsk protesters.

Basnett warning to unions

Trade unions must recognize that Labour is no longer the automatic choice as an alternative government and they need to face "unpalatable facts" about future policies and strategy, Mr David Basnett, general secretary of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trade Union, says today in his union's journal.

Suicide in court

The suicide of a left-wing Turkish activist who threw himself from a Berlin courtroom window has unleashed a furor over West Germany's tough immigration policy.

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Crime 'ignored'

People on some London housing estates fail to report quite serious crimes for fear of reprisals from a "lawless minority", the Metropolitan Police Commissioner said.

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Dollar weakens

The dollar surged on foreign exchange markets, but weakened in New York after the Federal Reserve Board injected \$1.5bn (£1bn) of reserves into the system.

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Refinery fire

More than 120 firemen fought most of the day and into the night to control a fire in an oil storage tank at Amoco's Milford Haven refinery.

Surprise ally

Britain found an unexpected ally in Denmark when EEC ministers met in Brussels to confront the threat of Community bankrolling.

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Willis stays

Bob Willis has been reappointed England captain for their winter tour to Fiji, New Zealand and Pakistan.

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Leading articles: Mr Begin and Lebanon; polytechnics; Mr Michael Meacher.

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Begin's decision to quit leaves Israel without a leader

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

An intensive and destabilizing period of political bargaining is under way in Israel to find an agreed successor to Mr Menachem Begin, the country's sixth Prime Minister, who announced yesterday beyond any remaining doubt that he is standing down.

The start of the complex process designed to find an alternative leader for the shaky Likud coalition capable of securing a parliamentary majority coincided with Israel's agreement to a second, brief postponement in the redeployment of its occupying troops in Lebanon.

The agreement to delay the pull-back - which had been scheduled to start at first light today - came after an urgent request from President Reagan transmitted by special envoy, Mr Robert Shamir, the Foreign Minister, that Mr Levy had agreed to a No 2 position.

At the age of 67, Mr Shamir was seen by observers as the uncharismatic stop-gap candidate who might hold the coalition together, but who would be unlikely to win many votes.

Mr Levy, a Sephardic Jew, has a much more popular following but is opposed by certain coalition members whose support is vital to the redeployment, extending beyond a few days or weeks.

The Likud leaders hope that the

interregnum will be sufficient for them to build a new coalition, but it was no means certain they would succeed without the invaluable political cement provided by the personality of Mr Begin - even during his last months of personal decline.

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could be found without a political

struggle diminished when Mr David Levy, the deputy prime minister, announced there would be "more than one" contender. Earlier, it had been suggested by backers of the front-runner, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, that Mr Levy had agreed to a No 2 position.

The uncertainty which the resignation will encourage both inside Israel and in the Middle East has increased international concern about the region's immediate future. Western diplomats here found it hard to see the delay in Israel's redeployment extending beyond a few days or weeks at the most.

The closeness to which the pullback had already come was shown by the fact that television cameramen selected to film the departure of the prime minister had already been dispatched northwards. Public pressure remains intense for the redeployment to go ahead as soon as possible.

After yesterday's meeting with Mr Begin, the conviction grew that he was retiring because of mental and physical fatigue, rather than any political reason.

"He told us simply that he felt he was not able to continue," explained Rabbi Shlomo Lorenz of the Agudat Israel Party. "He said that it was a personal matter, that he just could not go on."

One plan being canvassed was to restore Mr Ariel Sharon, the disgraced former Defence Minister, to the chairmanship of the influential cabinet committee responsible for expanding Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Although the Labour Party with 50 seats has more deputies than the Likud with 48, it would be powerless to form a new

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Mr Begin: 'No point in trying to persuade him to stay on'

Hattersley attacks 'ticket for defeat'



By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Roy Hattersley said last night that the Labour Party would demand yet another general election defeat if it was unable to elect a joint Kinnoch-Meacher leadership ticket at the party conference on October 2.

Mr Kinnoch's main challenger for the leadership said in an interview on Radio Clyde: "If Neil Kinnoch was elected leader and then Michael Meacher was elected deputy, there would be people who were actually saying and voting for the proposition that they didn't want a compromise within the party; they didn't want a balanced leadership; they didn't want the broad church; they wanted exclusive brethren; they wanted a very narrow view of the Labour Party's philosophy and belief."

He then added: "I don't believe that the Labour Party would be stupid enough to do that because to do that would be to throw away any chance of winning the next general election."

United States Navy Cobra helicopters hovered low as the sniping went on and Marines with binoculars were trying to pin down the sources of fire.

For the first time, the United States aircraft carrier Eisenhower was sighted yesterday off the Beirut coast. Major Bob Jordan, a spokesman for the Marines said the vessel had been in the area for "some time" and had been involved in joint manoeuvres between the Egyptians and Americans in Egypt.

He said the aircraft carrier had moved to a position closer to Beirut as "support".

Lebanese Army units in various parts of the capital were attacked and the Voice of Lebanon radio, run by the right-wing Phalange Party, reported it had received calls from residents in west Beirut claiming militiamen had been storming homes, looting and plundering as they went along.

Mr Hattersley's words are more remarkable because he has so far refused to rise to the deputy leadership challenge posed by Mr Meacher, preferring instead to concentrate on the contest with Mr Kinnoch for the leadership.

Mr Meacher himself said on August 10 that the so-called "dress ticket" of Mr Kinnoch and Mr Hattersley was a recipe for continued destructive internal party wrangling.

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Labour government not automatic alternative, unions told by Basnett

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Trade unions have been warned by a union leader that they must recognize that Labour is no longer the automatic choice and that they need to face up to the "facts" about future policies and strategy.

The warning, delivered on the eve of the TUC Congress in Blackpool, comes from Mr David Basnett, general secretary of the General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union and the key figure in the links between the two wings of the labour movement.

A exposition by Mr Basnett on the union movement's Need to Re-think its objectives and economic policy is contained in his union's journal published today. He says that the challenge to the unions' traditional role is not just coming from hostile government and employers "but also from our own members."

Referring to the political reality that the movement has to face Mr Basnett says: "In all the post-war years we have been dealing with a Labour Party which is either in government or the obvious and only alternative government. Whatever our problems the next government would be a Labour government. That assumption was destroyed in the tragic electoral defeat in June."

"At the moment we cannot presume the outcome of the next election. We cannot therefore put as many eggs in the basket of legislative change after the next election as we have tended to do

Mr Basnett: "Unpalatable political facts"

By David Nicholson-Lord

Mr Charles Oxley, the Liverpool headmaster who "infiltrated" the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE) and later supplied the information gained to detectives at Scotland Yard, last night criticized the Government's "apathetic" approach to the case.

Mr Oxley said that the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police had failed to allocate enough police time to the case or give it a high enough priority. "It is hopeless," he added. "They have been very dilatory." Mrs Margaret Thatcher should take a strong lead on the issue, he said.

The Director of Public Prosecutions said yesterday that the file on the case, on which investigation by the Yard's obscene publications squad began last year, was being assessed by counsel but it was not known when a decision on prosecution would be taken. A new report was submitted by Scotland Yard.

Investigations into PIE, whose members advocate sexual relations with children, have been conducted by only two officers, one of them part-time on the case, according to Mr Oxley.

He said: "This is a matter of

Government 'apathy' on PIE criticized

By David Nicholson-Lord

Young children all over the country are being seriously assaulted by people who are campaigning to make it legal.

"I would like to see Mrs Thatcher taking a strong lead and saying to the new Home Secretary that we have just about reached rock-bottom with the ill-treatment of children and that something must be done."

Although miners' leaders said they would continue to fight, they now seem to have little chance of stopping a shutdown at the pit, which employs almost 1,100 men.

Mr Denis Murphy, president of the Northumberland miners, said men had been attracted by the board's "pieces of silver" - a reference to transfer payments of up to £1,550 offered to miners who agree to switch to Ellington Colliery, less than a mile from Lynemouth.

At Ellington, which with Lynemouth, forms the biggest undersea mining complex in the world, the men will also have a chance of earning bigger bonuses.

About 420 men will be transferred to Ellington before the end of the year if the miners agree to the closure while 200 will be kept at Lynemouth for salvage and maintenance work.

The remainder will go through early retirement and voluntary redundancy.

The board said jobs would be available at Ellington for men who wanted to move.

A picket outside Highlands

Fabricators oil platform yard at

Nigg yesterday blocked attempts

to restart production for the

second day running. Despite

strong police presence only half a

dozen workers decided to brave

the picket line. A management

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Wine chain's own-brand cigarette sales may start price war

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Victoria Wine, part of Allied Lyons and the country's biggest off-licence chain, is to test market packets of 20 cigarettes under its own label at 85p per packet. The pack will be white with green and gold lettering.

Text marketing will be carried out at 24 outlets and could start a fierce cigarette price cutting war.

At 85p the cigarettes will be 4p cheaper than the discounted price on the cheapest branded cigarettes

on the company's shelves. It compares with King size prices that retail in some outlets at 21.8p or more.

Mr Furs Hogan, managing director of the Manchester Tobacco Company, one of Britain's few small manufacturers which is supplying Victoria Wine with the Virginia cigarettes, said several of the big grocery multiple chains had inquired about possible own-label supplies.

Victoria Wine would be likely to bring the cut-price range into all 900 outlets, if the supermarkets also took up their own label supplies. The big British manufacturers could face the price pressures experienced by manufacturers in West Germany in the past few years.

In West Germany, "no-name" cigarettes - produced for grocery chains - have taken about 40 per cent of the market through supermarkets. That has forced the German manufacturers to cut prices to compete.

Cut-price no-name cigarettes - sold in plain generic rather than own-label packs - have also obtained a big market share in the United States.

Hinton's in the North east which has 53 supermarkets and

Victoria Wine's own-label cigarettes.

Chay Blyth in new challenge

Chay Blyth, the round-the-world yachtsman, announced yesterday that he had set himself a fresh, and maybe final, sailing challenge: to beat the clipper ship record for the 14,500-mile voyage round Cape Horn.

Mr Blyth, aged 43, will sail from New York in November to try to beat the record set by the American cutter Flying Cloud 132 years ago. He hopes to arrive in San Francisco sooner than the 89 days and 21 hours the cutter took in 1851.

He said yesterday: "For me this is a great adventure."

British forces based on the Falkland Islands have agreed to rendezvous with him as he sails through the South Atlantic to take off his letters and film.

Woman's body among toys

The body of Mrs Thelma Mary Bain, aged 63, of Lansbury Avenue, Feltham, west London, was discovered on the floor in her bedroom hidden by toys seven days after she was reported missing. The Hammersmith coroner, was told yesterday.

The inquest was told she had taken poison. A verdict was recorded that she had taken her life because of severe depression.

Blazing tyres inquest date

An inquest into the death of a man who was severely burnt when a sculpture of a submarine made from car tyres was destroyed by fire, was adjourned at Battersea, south London, yesterday.

Mr James Gore-Graham, aged 35, a furniture designer, of Coler Gardens, west Kensington, died after the blaze on the South Bank.

Body in freezer

Mrs Ethel Bussell, aged 72, was found dead in an old disconnected freezer at a Devon farm yesterday. Police said that a post-mortem examination would be carried out on Mrs Bussell of Higher Easterbrook, Burlescombe, but there were no suspicious circumstances.

Aircraft charge

Heini Rothlisberger, aged 72, from Lille, has been accused in the Irish Republic of attempting to damage an Air France aircraft from Paris to Montreal. He will appear in court at Shannon on Friday.

Police car stolen

Joy riders drove away a police car while the policemen were questioning youths in another car on the M6 in north Staffordshire on Monday. The police car was found abandoned later.

Dancing feat

Ann Marie Whittaker, aged 19, from Helston, Cornwall, claimed a world record yesterday after disco dancing non-stop for 386 hours, more than 16 days, at Penzance.

Pigeons killed

Vandals have strangled or beheaded 24 prize-winning racing pigeons worth a total of £720 after breaking into a loft in Linby Walk, Hucknall, Nottinghamshire.

Glider stolen

Police have asked people to look out for a glider worth £11,000 with a 60ft wing span stolen from a club airfield at Crowland, Lincolnshire.

Civic Rolls to go

Nottingham City Council is to sell its two civic Rolls-Royces and replace them with two Ford cars to cut costs.

Drug police seize Baudelaire book

By Stewart Teather, Crime Reporter

A work by Baudelaire, first published 133 years ago, has been seized by police in search of material linked to illicit drug use.

Other works taken during raids on bookshops include three by William Huxley and one by William Burroughs, the American writer.

The books have been seized in 20 raids over the past 18 months on small, independent or "alternative" bookshops. The police have acted under the Obscene Publications Act, mainly taking books on cannabis, cocaine and hallucinogenic mushrooms, covering use and cultivation.

But a list compiled by the Publishers' Association shows police have also taken Baudelaire's *Hashish, Wine and Opium* published in 1860, and *Opium of Perception, Molks and The Island* by Huxley; *Junkies* by Burroughs, and several books by Hunter S. Thompson, the American writer and journalist, including his history of the Hell's Angels.

Earlier this month, members of the association met to consider the police action. They decided to see whether the police would keep the books or bring prosecutions before taking action themselves.

Yesterday, a spokesman for the association said the meeting had decided representations to Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney

which considers it".

Missing wife seen alive, anonymous caller says

Police searching for Mrs Diane Jones, the missing wife of an Essex village doctor, received an anonymous telephone call yesterday claiming that she is in the Bury St Edmunds area of Suffolk.

The caller, a woman who said she was a close friend of Mrs Jones, rang off before police had a chance to question her.

She said she had seen Mrs Jones alive and well in the past 48 hours. Police in Bury St Edmunds are being contacted.

Det Supt Michael Ainsley, leading the hunt for Mrs Jones, said: "We are taking this call seriously. The woman was calm and her information sounded plausible. We are appealing to her to contact us again and we want

to hear from anyone who can identify her."

Mr Ainsley said a handling recovered by police, which now newspapers reported yesterday as being a breakthrough in the investigation, had been in police possession since August 2.

Meanwhile police divers were searching flooded sandpits at Ardleigh, near Colchester, after the reported sighting of a car in the area at about the time Mrs Jones, aged 35, disappeared five weeks ago.

Her husband, Dr Robert Jones, aged 40, left for a holiday in Canada at the weekend after putting his farmhouse in Cogshall, Essex, up for sale at £95,000.

Franchise applications go in today

Rival companies stake cable TV claims

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The Home Office will receive applications today for the first cable television franchises to be awarded in Britain. By November a dozen franchises will have been given approval and by next year the multi-channel network should be in operation.

Dozens of consortia have declared their interest in providing cable television services, although not all are likely to apply for franchises today but will wait until a second batch are awarded in about a year.

The new Cable Television Authority, to be created by the Government through legislation in the next Parliament, will be the prime supervisor of the cable networks and will be responsible in the long term for awarding

the "game-jigs" for multi-channel television.

There is still a great deal of uncertainty about the criteria to be used in making the selection.

PROGRAMME PRODUCERS

FILM
1. Consortium of Goldcrest Films and Television (financial backers of *Charlton's*, *Chandni* and *Local Hero*), Colgate Pictures, CBS, Home Box Office (a consortium in the US) and 20th Century-Fox.
2. Rediffusion, Yorkshire, Rank Satellite and Cable, Please and the American UPI pay television company, which is itself a joint venture between three leading film studios, Paramount, Universal and MGM/UA Entertainment.

MUSIC
1. Thorn-EMI.
2. Cable Music, a consortium led by Virgin Records.
3. Musicvision, led by Yorkshire Television.

AKTS
British Cable Programmes.

CHILDREN'S AND EDUCATIONAL

1. Thorn-EMI.
2. Wyvern Television, a new television company, also applying for a franchise in Bath and Reading.
3. Satellite Television.
4. Screen Sports.
5. Cable Sports and Leisure.
6. West Natty.

NEWS
1. News International/Satellite Television.
2. Goldcrest.

VIDEO GAMES AND HOME COMPUTER SOFTWARE
1. W. H. Smith.
2. Thorn-EMI.

AKTS
British Cable Programmes.

SPORT
1. Satellite Television.
2. Screen Sports.
3. Cable Sports and Leisure.
4. West Natty.

POSSIBLE FRANCHISE AREAS AND CONSORTIA

Bath and Reading: Wyvern Television, company intends also to make educational programmes.

Brighton, Hove, Worthing and Brighton Regis: Communicable.

Bristol: Rediffusion; Stockbrokers Stock Books.

Covensy: Thorn-EMI with local radio station Merca.

East Anglia: Eastern Cable Television for Norwich; Cable Systems Development Company for Ipswich.

Leeds and Bradford: Consortium involving Virgin Records, Lancashire Cable, North-West (Preston, Chorley and Leyland) company run by Mr Barry Astor, former editor of *News of the World*, plus other local celebrities including Tom Finney, Lancashire Cable (Preston, Blackpool and Blackpool), board members include Mr Alastair Burnet and representatives of the local commercial radio station: Central Radio and Chorley and Chorley.

Leicester: Thorn-EMI, Rediffusion; Granada Television.

London: Central London Cable (Camden and Hampstead); Croydon Cable; Cityline (Giant); consortium of *ICFC* and Greenwich Cablevision, among others, headed by Sir Monty Finnigan; Scottish Cable Services (Ayr, Prestwick, Troon, Kilmarnock and Irvine) - consortium with Honeywell, Royal Television and Scottish and Southern Electricity.

North Yorkshire: General Network (Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham) consortium includes University of Sheffield.

Nottingham: Same consortium as Coventry and Hampshire, Leeds and Bradford and Birmingham.

South Wales: Same consortium as Cardiff and Swansea.

Windsor Television: consortium includes Lord De La Warr.

Existing cable systems owned by the cable companies which operate limited services would be candidates for updating. These include Rediffusion, at Bury, Hull, Reading, Warrington and Tividale, West Midlands, in some London boroughs; Radio Rental in Swindon and the Midway towns; Philips Cablevision, in Treforest and Northampton; Wellingborough Traders TV in Wellingborough; British Telecom in Milton Keynes; Rothschild, Ferranti, The Gasworks, Ian, Northwest Television, Farnham and Southampton.

Scotland: Capital City Cablevision (Edinburgh) - consortium with Radio Fort, the Royal Bank of Scotland, Johnston Newspapers and Thorn-EMI; Cablevision Scotland (Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee) - consortium with Gramophone.

Wales: Cardiff Cablevision (Giant) - consortium of Daily Record and Sunday Mail, ICFC and Greenwich Cablevision, among others, headed by Sir Monty Finnigan; Scottish Cable Services (Ayr, Prestwick, Troon, Kilmarnock and Irvine) - consortium with Honeywell, Royal Television and Scottish and Southern Electricity.

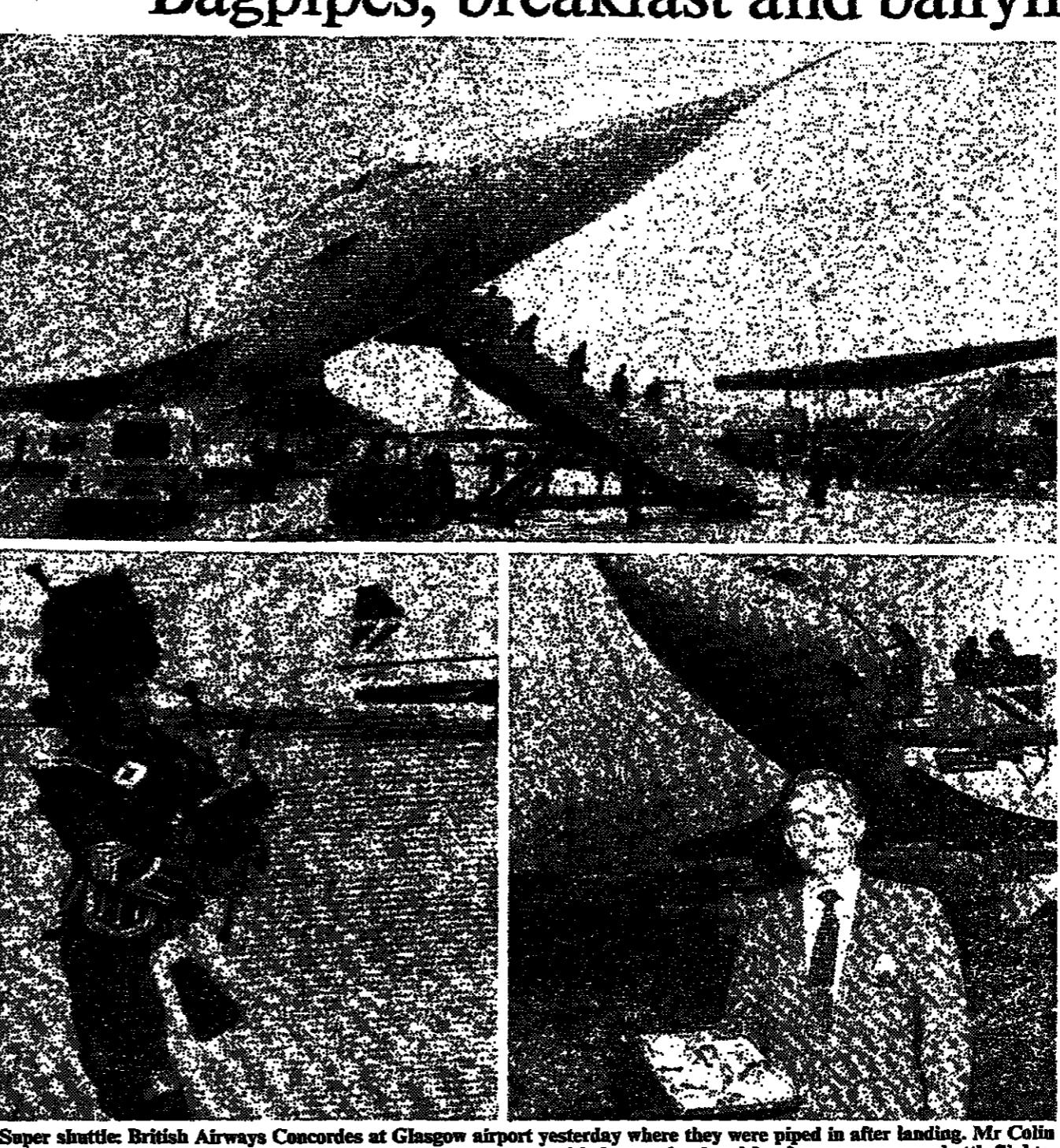
Local authorities responsibility for paying out help with housing costs from the Department of Health and Social Security and was intended to be fully implemented by April. But at the end of July, the department acknowledged that 100 local authorities had not transferred the authority.

The position is believed to have improved since then, but local authorities have been given until September to introduce the change for existing cases and until December for those taken over from the DHSS.

Mr Boyson's statement said that 95 per cent of people receiving supplementary benefit had been moved on to the new scheme by the end of July, but delays in some cases had led to some people falling behind with their rent and rates.

He acknowledged that private tenants were more vulnerable than council tenants and urged local authorities to give priority to their claims.

Bagpipes, breakfast and ballyhoo



BA 'will not make price cut'

By Michael Baily
Transport Editor

There will be no fare cuts on British Airways domestic shuttle to beat off competition from British Midland Airways.

That was the view yesterday by Mr Colin Marshall, BA's chief executive, on a day in which the state airline spent about £33,000 on flying nearly 600 passengers, paying over £50 a head, from London to Glasgow and back by Concorde to mark the opening of a new improved "super shuttle".

BA is spending around £4m a year to provide a full English breakfast, free drinks, reserved seats, to staunch the traffic loss that within a year of competition from British Midland's current price advantage, BA's stages fare Glasgow to £255, compared with BA's Midland's £225.50. "We are the market leader and it would not be wise for us to bring fares down unless we want to get into a price war", Mr Marshall said.

Nor was BA trying to drive British Midland out of business.

The Concorde trips failed to draw the crowds predicted the day before. The first left Heathrow at 7.15am with all 100 seats taken, but the second at 7.50am carried only 67 passengers. The third, shortly after, was full.

Most passengers were clearly thrilled by the bargain opportunity of flying on the aircraft but many took it in their stride. "I could not care less about Concorde, I just want to get to Glasgow on time", one businessman at Heathrow said.

State cash goes to pop group

From Arthur Oates
Birmingham

The four members of a pop music group from Solihull, West Midlands are to receive about £40 a week each for a year under the Government's enterprise allowance scheme.

The scheme encourages small businesses under the auspices of the Manpower Services Commission. It is thought to be the first time that musicians have been aided.

The Department of Employment said: "We agree they are in a fringe area, but they conformed to the guidelines. They had all been out of work for over 13 weeks and were prepared to put £1,000 into the venture. We do not know if they had to give an audition after they had applied."

The Government has allocated £54m for the first year of the scheme, which started on a national basis this month. There are to be 25,000 places, and so far there have been 147 approved ones in the Midlands, including the pop group.

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Mr Brown, a guitarist, said supported by the Government, we are expecting to bring out our first single record next month and we have also set up our own recording company called REM.

"The idea came to me when I heard someone discussing the scheme in a public house. I thought there was no reason why an aspiring pop group could not get help if publishers and recordists can do so.

Two more staff quit Dartington

From Arthur Oates
Birmingham

Two more senior members of staff have resigned from Dartington Hall, the independent progressive school, whose headmaster announced a clean-up campaign after allegations of crime and vice among pupils.

Mr John Clinch-Bunting and his wife, Angela, house parents, who have been at the school in Totnes, Devon, for four years, leave later this week. They are refusing to say why.

Their departure comes after that of two senior teachers, Mr David Gribble and Mrs Maggie Gran, who have also refused to give their reasons.

Dartington Hall's headmaster, Mr Lyn Blackshaw, aged 44, wrote last week to the parents of the 300 mixed pupils, who pay nearly £6,000 a year to educate their children.

In the catalogue problems at the school, including under-age sex, drug and alcohol abuse and a spate of burglaries and vandalism.

On Monday, a former pupil-governor, Miss Emma Fein, aged 18, who left in July, said: "The school is by no means perfect, but it is special because it cares for people who have had a difficult time. Mr Blackshaw is ignorant and that saying he could not cope with people with social problems."

"There has to be a change but there are ways to go about it".

The chairman of Dartington Parish Council, Mrs Sybil Newson, herself a former pupil, said: "A new broom always sweeps clean but he is trying to bring in his views too quickly."

Mr and Mrs Clinch-Bunting were unavailable for comment last night.

Timber frame homes defended

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

There is no evidence to suggest that timber frame built homes are inferior to more traditional houses, the National Housebuilding Council says in a report published yesterday.

Ferment on the subcontinent

Unions muted but lawyers add their weight to anti-Zia protest

From Michael Hamlyn, Karachi

A 28-year-old woman wearing a blue outfit and a ring in her nose stood outside the Sessions Court in Karachi yesterday lunchtime yelling anti-government slogans.

"No talks with Zia", she shouted. "When the Army is in politics the country is in disgrace. To call Zia a dog is to insult a dog. Zia is a dog-basher. Zia is a rotter. Zia is a serpent."

She was led away by a group of women police and sat in the front seat of a police van as it roared her off to prison. Gulzar Begum, mother of two small boys was not the first woman to be arrested in the present campaign against the military regime in Pakistan, nor is she the first trade union leader to invite imprisonment, but examples of both have been hard to come by, and she is certainly the first to combine both attributes in one detainee.

She is president of a progressive union at the Pakistan Steel Mills. She is also a symbol of what the campaign needs if it is to maintain sufficient momentum to make any important change to the plans of the Government for a gradual return to an elected democracy on a unilaterally revised constitution.

It is now 16 days since the civil disobedience campaign was launched.

Bombs greet Gandhi's son in Assam

Delhi (Reuter) - Two bombs exploded in Assam when Mr Rajiv Gandhi, aged 39, the politician son of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, made a quick visit to the troubled north-east Indian state yesterday.

Shops and offices in the capital, Gauhati, and some other parts of the Brahmaputra Valley state were closed for the second day as part of a 36-hour strike called by anti-immigrant hardliners to coincide with Mr Gandhi's trip.

The two explosions, one on Monday night and the other yesterday morning, raised the total across the state to five since Sunday.

The bombs and strike appeared to be the first serious anti-Government action since widespread violence last February and

cotton coat carrying a copy of the 1973 Constitution.

The biggest outbreaks of unrest have been largely confined to the rural interior of Sind province, where violence is as much a part of politics as any other human activity.

"When a man gets a large sum of money in these parts he does one of three things", a government official from the northern part of the province said. "He goes to Karachi and buys a video, or gets married - and they get married many times - or he pays to have someone killed. After a good harvest here the murder rate sometimes goes up to about 10 a day."

With such violent attitudes it has come as no surprise that the political protest in Sind has produced a good deal of mayhem. But even there the protesters are beginning to feel that the rest of the country is letting them down. If that feeling grows it will inevitably lead to calls for Sindhu Desh - an independent Sind.

The convenor for the MRD in the northern country town of Lakarum, Mr Ahmed Ali Suroo, a lawyer aged 24, said: "If the Punjabis will not go against Zia we Sindhis will do our own politics. There will be no more Pakistan politics."

An effort in this direction will be made on Saturday when lawyers from bar associations around the country will meet to plan their future action. Lawyers in Lahore yesterday undertook a procession of protest on that day, with each lawyer in his black

March when 3,000 people were killed and more than 300,000 were made homeless.

The Press Trust of India said that only one person was injured in the latest attacks and there were no reports of any group claiming responsibility.

The agency said the first bomb exploded at a state transport corporation workshop in Nowrang, 60 miles east of Gauhati, injuring the night watchman. The other was also in the Nowrang district at a station.

The news agency gave no details of damage but a bomb on Monday damaged a stretch of railway track in the same district and it appeared the attackers were going for transport systems.

Mr Hiteswar Saikia, the Chief Minister of Assam, has said he

believes the bombers are linked to extremist groups in neighbouring north-east Indian states who have hideouts across the border in Burma.

The agency said Mr Gandhi, who is one of five secretaries-general of the Congress (I) Party, which rules India, received a rousing reception at Gauhati airport.

He later flew by helicopter to Borbori in Nowrang district, which was one of the worst affected areas during the February massacres when whole villages were wiped out.

Mr Gandhi, who many politicians believe is being groomed by his mother as her heir-apparent, was later due to address a meeting of the Congress Party's youth wing in Gauhati.

August talks a measure of crisis



Before the battle: Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, confers with Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, before the EEC meeting in Brussels.

Britain finds surprise ally in EEC budget battle

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The largest ever meeting of EEC ministers yesterday sat round an overcrowded table in Brussels to wrestle with the largest problem ever to face the Community - how to prevent it from going bankrupt.

It was a warming-up session in what threatens to be the toughest series of negotiations since the EEC was created. Central to the discussion was how much of the cost of running the Community should be borne by Britain.

Little was expected from the meeting, but the mere fact that 35 ministers from 10 countries were prepared to travel to Brussels in August was an important sign that every member is prepared to work towards a successful conclusion before the next European summit in Athens in December.

The three British ministers present, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, and Mr Michael Jopling, the Agriculture minister, all pressed Britain's case for strict control of farm spending, which is eating up two-thirds of the total budget.

S African law limiting black students shelved

Cape Town (AFP) - South Africa yesterday postponed plans to limit the number of blacks entering universities mainly reserved for whites.

A law requiring black students to seek ministerial permission for enrolment in a white university was passed by Parliament last June in the face of strong opposition from rectors of English-speaking faculties, the opposition Progressive Federal Party and anti-apartheid bodies.

Education Minister Dr Gerrit Viljoen said yesterday that despite the decision to postpone applying the new law, black students in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Ophthalmology, Pharmacy, para-medical subjects and Agriculture would continue to be assigned primarily to the universities in the black "homelands".

Dr Viljoen justifies this measure by recalling the large investment which he said had been made in teaching these subjects in the black colleges.

The Education Minister said that entry qualifications to English-speaking universities would bar the same proportion of blacks. Coloured (mixed-race) and Asians as government-imposed quotas.

The Afrikaner universities had promised to take only between 100 and 400 non-white students in the coming academic year.

Infection risk to Chad troops

Ndjamena (AP) - The survival rate among soldiers with abdominal injuries sustained in the civil war in Chad is "absolute zero", according to Lieutenant Commander René Jancovici, a French Navy doctor who is the only trained surgeon practising in the Chad capital.

Those seriously injured in the battle for the northern outpost of Faya-Largeau were flown to the hospital in Ndjamena, a nondescript group of buildings in the heart of the war-tattered city.

"They lay in the 50°C (122°F) heat for up to five days without any kind of first aid before being evacuated," Commander Jancovici said. "I received 223 seriously hurt soldiers with all kinds of head, chest and limb injuries."

"But there was not a single abdominal injury among them, because anyone unfortunate enough to be struck in the abdomen in that heat and filth and without medical attention was dead within hours."

The hospital itself is not a model of hygiene, either. All the toilets are smashed and unusable, and flies and malaria-bearing mosquitoes hover over rubbish and excrement.

There are not enough beds for the hundreds of patients - civilians as well as soldiers.

Many of the military casualties from Faya-Largeau had injuries caused by pellet, fragmentation and phosphorous bombs dropped in the dive-bombing attacks of the Libyan Air Force, Commander Jancovici said.

The injuries of every battle casualty brought to the hospital were badly infected, he said. "Four of them had amputations which they had performed on themselves - for example, of gangrenous open fractures, without anaesthesia, instruments or help of any kind."

It was not an idea which Britain could endorse outright, but the fact that the most implacable opponent to EEC change was now prepared to put forward ideas for change showed how conscious every country had become of the need to negotiate a settlement.

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had to accept, and the fact that the most implacable opponent to EEC change was now prepared to put forward ideas for change showed how conscious every country had become of the need to negotiate a settlement.

A spokeswoman for the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) the political wing of the Salvadorean guerrilla military organization, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), said that they were still trying to arrange a meeting.

The US envoy and the FDR-FMLN delegation, which is headed by Dr Guillermo Ungo, president of the FDR, held separate meetings on Monday night with President Alberto Moneo of Costa Rica, who has been trying to mediate.

Mr Stone had arrived here late on Monday from El Salvador, refusing to state whether he planned negotiations with the Salvadorean left. At least three top FDR-FMLN leaders are reported to have gathered secretly

in San Jose, but were refusing to talk to the press.

Sources say the FDR-FMLN has prepared a detailed proposal for a settlement of the four-year-old civil war modelled on the negotiated settlement which brought independence to Zimbabwe in 1979.

The plan is likely to contain proposals for an all-party conference to negotiate a ceasefire, draw up a new constitution and arrange elections.

US officials have stated repeatedly that Mr Stone's mission is intended to convince the guerrillas to take part in Salvadorean elections due early next year.

But in a statement issued in Panama over the weekend, FDR-FMLN leaders ruled out leftist participation in the elections and called for a power-sharing agreement with the US-backed government of President Alvaro Magana during an interim period leading up to elections.

An FDR statement issued here

said that "middle level" officials from the organization had met in Bogotá early on Monday with representatives from the Salvadorean government's "peace commission" in an effort to set a date and place for future high-level talks. The statement said the meeting took place under the auspices of President Belisario Betancur of Colombia.

In his brief arrival statement

Mr Stone appeared to be claiming some credit for convening the Bogotá meeting. He said he was "pleased to announce" that the meeting had taken place and that it was "useful and successful".

The FDR-FMLN has, however, rejected Mr Stone's description of his role as a mediator.

BOGOTÁ: Mr Stone is due to arrive here today for talks between representatives of the Government of El Salvador and the guerrillas opposed to it (Geoffrey Mathews writes).

The talks - the first ever between the two sides - opened here on Monday in the presidential palace. Both sides were welcomed by President Betancur.

At least three whites and six blacks acquitted by the courts are still in custody.

Care of office: A worried President Reagan telephones Washington from his California ranch to seek more information about the deaths of the two American Marines.

off the Lebanese coast. These reserves have not been called up to support the land-based force which includes British, French and Italian troops.

The Administration has indirectly blamed Syria for Monday's attack which was

carried out by Shias militiamen. A senior official accompanying President Reagan on his holiday in California claimed the incident was an outgrowth of Syria's refusal to withdraw its forces from Lebanon and Syrian influence on left-wing Muslim factions there.

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Poison tide closes beaches in France

Bayonne (Reuter) - Dozens of barrels labelled "cyanide of sodium", carried away by floods in the Spanish Basque country, have been washed ashore in south-west France.

Local authorities have banned swimming on most beaches.

Navy officials alerted ships in the Gulf of Gascony to take care, and an operation was put in hand to recover barrels still adrift.

Nigerian ruling party leads

Lagos (AFP) - President Shegar's National Party of Nigeria has won 145 of the 241 seats declared so far in Saturday's federal assembly elections.

The gains have further cemented the party's geographical spread. It polled more than 12 million votes, representing about 47 per cent of the total cast and reached the mandatory one-third of votes in 17 of the 19 states.

General jailed

Peking (AFP) - President Wang Daibai who commanded armies of Red Guards in the mid-1960s, had been sentenced to nine years in prison, according to a Canton newspaper. He was charged with framing and persecuting Marshal Peng Teh-huai, the former Defence Minister.

Technical hitch

Antwerp (AP) - A 43-year-old businessman, Mr Jozef Dhaens, has been arrested on charges of selling United States computer equipment to Hungary in violation of a trade embargo. Three weeks ago a Foreign Ministry official was arrested for selling information about Western technology to the Soviet block.

Thailand offer

Bangkok (Reuter) - Britain is prepared to take part in international financing of a £520m petrochemical fertilizer project using natural gas from the Gulf of Thailand, according to Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, who is on a visit here.

Protestant goes

Guatemala City (AP) - Senior Ricardo Asturias Valenzuela, a Roman Catholic, has replaced Señor Jorge Serrano Elias, a Protestant, appointed by ex-President Rios Montt, as head of the advisory Council of State.

Jail riot death

Honolulu, Oklahoma (AP) - Governor George Nigh declared a state of emergency as police and National Guards struggled to control a riot at the Conner Correctional Centre in which one prisoner died, 23 people were injured and five buildings were burned.

Corsica blasts

Ajaccio (Reuter) - Seven bombs exploded around the Corsican capital, after 10 similar attacks in the previous seven days. Buildings owned mainly by French residents were damaged.

MiGs spotted

Tokyo (AP) - Japan's Defence Agency has confirmed that the Soviet Union is stationing MiG-23 fighters on El Dorado island, off the northern island of Hokkaido. El Dorado is claimed by Japan but occupied by the Russians.

Hit premiere

Athens (AP) - Mikis Theodorakis received a standing ovation at the Greek premiere of his First Symphony, at the Herod Atticus theatre below the Acropolis. He is best known for his popular songs.

Discord ends

New York (Reuter) - The New York City Opera Orchestra has accepted a three-year contract giving 6.5 per cent annual pay increases, after a 54-day strike during which musicians picketed the theatre.

Trials stopped

Lorient, (AP) - France has suspended indefinitely sea trials on a 280-ton gunboat ordered by Libya. France has already supplied Libya with nine similar vessels.

Furore over Bonn immigration policy

Turk leaps to death from court

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

A left-wing Turkish activist whom the Government was trying to deport yesterday committed suicide by jumping from a sixth-floor window of the Berlin courthouse where his case was being heard.

He was Mr Kemal Altan, aged 23, and his death quickly unleashed a furor in Germany. The Social Democrats accused the Government of giving more credence to the Turkish military dictators than to its democratic opponents, and said Mr Altan was a victim of the harsh new policy towards foreigners being pursued by Herr Friedrich Zumann, the right-wing Minister of the Interior.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had made a personal plea that Mr Altan be granted asylum.

Mr Altan had become a test case for the Government's

declared intention to cut down the numbers granted asylum, but it aroused grave concern that it seemed to violate Germany's principle of not sending asylum-seekers back to the country where they faced persecution. His case was being heard by the highest administrative court of appeal, and he was supported by churchmen, trade unionists and numerous left-wing groups. Even Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, recently expressed doubts about deporting him to Turkey.

Mr Altan died at the start of the second day of the hearing by hurling himself through an open window in the court room as soon as his handcuffs were removed. His lawyer shouted at him "Don't do it, Kemal" as he leapt up from his seat. Attempts lasting half an hour failed to revive him.

As the leader of a now banned

student group in Turkey, Mr Altan came to Berlin 18 months ago. Turkey accused him of complicity in an assassination attempt on a right-wing politician, but withdrew the charge on seeking his extradition.

He spent the past 13 months in custody while his case was considered. Amnesty International maintained he would be tortured and imprisoned if he was returned.

However, Herr Zumann, who has proposed various measures to encourage foreigners to leave Germany and to stop anyone evading immigration restrictions by making use of the liberal asylum laws, insisted that he be deported.

The Government reacted quickly and with concern to Mr Altan's suicide. A spokesman said it was especially tragic because the difficulties of deciding whether to deliver asylum-seekers to Turkey were especially clear in his case. He said the authorities had been particularly careful to come to a fair decision.

Mulroney sweeps to victory

From John Best, Ottawa

The new leader of Canada's Progressive Conservative Party, Mr Brian Mulroney, has won himself a seat in parliament – and, just as important, shown that he has a more widespread influence. He will take over as Opposition leader when the Commons reconvenes on September 12.

While Mr Mulroney was sweeping to an overwhelming election triumph in the Nova Scotia Riding of Central Nova on Monday, another Tory candidate was marching to victory in a by-election at the opposite end of the country in British Columbia.

The victory of Mr Gerry St Germain in Mission-Port Moody, BC, was an upset. Mr St Germain, a 44-year-old poultry farmer defeated the New Democratic Party (NDP) candidate, Sophie Wereschuk, a school trustee, by more than 3,000 votes.

This could be interpreted as a sign that the photogenic and charismatic Mr Mulroney, aged 44, who won the leadership in June without ever having run for parliament, has the "coat tails" to help pull other Tory candidates into the Commons.

With 211 of 212 polls counted, Mr Mulroney had about 19,000 votes, Mr Alvin Sinclair, the Liberal candidate 7,851; and Mr Roy De Marsh of the NDP 4,109.

In a victory statement, Mr Mulroney said the Tory win offered new hope, new promise and new opportunity for Canada. "There is no longer any such thing as a safe Liberal seat anywhere in Canada".



Mr Mulroney: "No safe Liberal seat left"

Aquino 'hired killer' named

Manila (AP, Reuter) – The Philippines Government has identified the man it says killed the opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, and said he was a notorious "gun for hire" employed previously by crime syndicates or subversives.

The chief military investigator, Major Prospero Olivras, said the man, who was shot dead by security forces immediately after Mr Aquino was killed on August 21, was named as Rolando Galman y Dawang.

President Marcos described the assassination as an "idiotic"

crime that no Filipino politician would commit.

At a meeting with United States Senator Mark Hatfield, yesterday, he said that only local communists stood to benefit, not his Government, his party or the opposition, according to a Presidential Palace statement.

The statement reported Senator Hatfield as saying he understood the country's problems and would urge President Reagan to carry on with his planned visit to the Philippines in November.

Cardinal Jaime Sin Archbishop of Manila, yesterday called for a

council of national reconciliation to establish contact between the Government and the Filipino people after the Aquino murder.

Cardinal Sin, who will officiate at the funeral in Manila today, refused to serve on the judicial panel set up by President Marcos to investigate the murder.

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Greece fails to convince Trudeau

From Marie Mediana, Athens

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, who briefly interrupted a Greek island holiday with his three sons to have official talks with the Greek leaders on Monday and Tuesday, said yesterday that he had disagreed with a Greek proposal for a six-month delay in the deployment of missiles in Europe to give the Geneva talks a better chance.

Mr Trudeau said that Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, had not convinced him that the postponement of the deadline to June 1984 would improve the chances of agreement.

"There has already been some movement on both sides in Geneva and this is largely due to the fact that December is the deadline", he told a press conference.

Mr Papandreou said that he had discussed at length the missile proposal with Mr Trudeau. But quite paradoxically he added: "I found his position on the issue quite logical".

The two men discussed the prospect of Canadian investments in Greece, brisker bilateral trade, and transfers of Canadian technology. At a banquet on Monday night Mr Papandreou called his Canadian colleague a "great radical" while Mr Trudeau spoke of Mr Papandreou as an "unconventional prime minister".

Mr Trudeau also asked Mr Papandreou whether the withdrawal of the Canadian contingent which served for the past 19 years with the UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus, could help solve the problem, but was told that this would hardly be the appropriate time.

Walesa to defy Gdansk order – with flowers

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Lech Walesa, seen on Polish television screens on Monday night for the first time in 20 months, is likely to be the rogue card in today's celebrations of the Gdansk agreement which exactly three years gave birth to Solidarity.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, said yesterday that the Gdansk authorities had turned down a request by Mr Walesa to hold a commemorative meeting at 2.30pm today outside the Lenin shipyards. All meetings apart from the officially sanctioned ceremony in the morning, will be considered illegal.

But Mr Walesa had made clear his determination to lay flowers at the three towering crosses marking the death of workers in 1970, near the shipyards gates. If he does so at the time that the shift changes at the shipyards between 2 and 3 pm a natural crowd may well gather.

In a speech last week a reply to an anti-Solidarity manifesto by Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Walesa invited a government representative to lay flowers with him as an act of goodwill. The sentence was cut out of the television transmission of the encounter.

Apart from the Gdansk flash-

point, there may be trouble in other cities including Nowa Huta and Warsaw. Last year on August 31 demonstrations broke out throughout the country with running street battles between the police and Solidarity supporters in well over a dozen towns and cities. Five people died as a result.

This year, the solidarity underground has not called for demonstrations but for a boycott of all public transport, and of the official press. Workers are expected to stream through the streets, meeting at 4 pm at strategic places in a number of cities including the capital. Later the protesters, if they follow the appeal, will attend a Mass for Solidarity. Any of these occasions could provoke a demonstration.

The police are on full alert, but government officials say that they do not expect serious unrest today. They point to the failure of the go-slow called by the underground over the past week – a complete fiasco – is how Mr Urban described it – as a token that the Polish people do not want to follow the Solidarity leadership. Mr Urban quoted statistics showing that consumption of electricity by factories had increased over the past week. This showed that the go-slow had collapsed, he said.

Pacific nuclear ban fails

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

Australia has failed to achieve a strong commitment from the members of the South Pacific Forum for its proposal for a nuclear-free Pacific.

The forum concluded its two-day meeting in Canberra yesterday with an agreement in principle to the concept of a nuclear-free zone, but ministers felt that the time was not right to adopt a declaration supporting the plan.

Australia had hoped that if the forum agreed, the proposal could

have been circulated at the United Nations. This would have been an embarrassment to France.

The forum appeared split between those who said that the Australian proposal did not go far enough and those who said that it went too far.

Australia, supported by New Zealand, had proposed that US vessels should be allowed transit rights within the framework of a nuclear-free Pacific.

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Challenger launch turns night into day

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

In a flash of flame that turned night into day the space shuttle Challenger roared into orbit from Cape Canaveral yesterday to start a six-day mission.

Rain delayed the lift-off for 17 minutes and the shuttle departed at 2.37am, the first eight minutes of a space craft since Apollo 17 eleven years ago.

A few hours after the launching, television pictures from the spacecraft showed the five crew members going about their work. Challenger's journey is a dramatic demonstration of the reusability of the shuttle. The space craft made the seventh shuttle flight in July and was serviced in a record 67 days.

One of the main tasks on this trip is to launch Insat-1B, a communications satellite, into orbit 22,300 miles above the Indian Ocean. The satellite which will provide telephone, television, and meteorological services for India, will be launched today with the shuttle's 50th-long robot arm.

Among experiments to be conducted on board will be one which, it is hoped, will lead to a more efficient method of masking insulin, leading to a new treatment for diabetics.

• MOSCOW: The Soviet Union marked the launching of Challenger yesterday by renewing accusations that the United States is using the shuttle programme to militarize space. Tass said one of the crew's tasks was intended to help the Pentagon replace "spy satellites".



Dance of the toreador: The bull and matador Miguel Espinosa, known as "Armillita Chico", execute an evasive two-step in their encounter at San Sebastian de los Reyes, near Madrid.

Norway tries to right disaster rig

Oslo (Reuter)

Norway plans a new attempt this week to right the Alexander Kielland accommodation rig, which capsized in a

hurricane in the North Sea over three years ago in the worst offshore rig disaster so far.

The rig capsized on March 27, 1980, killing 123 oil workers, after one of its 800-tonne steel legs

snapped loose. Oil industry experts hope a successful recovery will "set further light on the accident and improve safety".

• Norwegian company Stolt-Nielsen Seaway Contracting is

confident it has found a way to right the rig and it plans to begin trimming the 150ft tall steel structure tomorrow and then turn the rig two days later.

A company spokesman said the task was comparable to turning an 18-storey building upside down.

The French-built Alexander Kielland was used as a hotel by up to 350 oil workers on the Ekofisk field on Norway's North Sea continental shelf. At the time of the disaster, 232 workers were on board.

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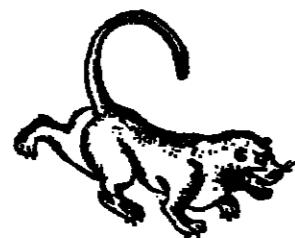
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SPECTRUM

Iskander Harappa married into Raza Hyder's family after Hyder had lost his first born son. Harappa patronizes his disappointed relative and appoints him as his personal trustee to reorganize his defeated army. But the roles are suddenly reversed in this third extract of *Shame* as Salman Rushdie concludes his fictional examination of the Zia-Bhutto rift and its continuing reverberations in Pakistan today.



SUCH IS THE SHAPE OF DEATH

General Hyder would remember to his dying day the time he had visited Iskander Harappa to discuss the defence budget and been slapped across the face for his pains. "Expenditure is falling below acceptable levels, Isky," he informed the prime minister, and to his astonishment Harappa banged on his desk so fiercely that the Mont Blanc pens jumped in their holders and the shadows in the corners hissed with alarm. "Acceptable to whom?" Iskander Harappa shouted. "The army does not say what goes, mister. No longer. Get that into your head. If we allow you 50 paissa a year, then that is what you must make do with. Get that straight and get out."

"Iskander," Raza said without raising his voice, "don't forget your friends."

"A man in my position has no friends," Harappa replied. "There are only temporary alliances based on mutual self-interest."

"They you have ceased to be a human being," Raza told him, and added thoughtfully: "A man who believes in God must also believe in men." Iskander Harappa flew into an even more terrifying rage. "Look out, General," he shrieked, "because I can put you back in that dustbin where I found you." He had rushed out from behind his desk and was screaming right into Raza's face, depositing spit on the general's cheeks. "God forgive you, Isky," Raza murmured, "you have forgotten that we are not your servants." It was at this point that Iskander Harappa struck him on a spittle-moistened cheek. He did not strike back, but remarked softly, "The blushes caused by such blows do not easily fade."

And in those later years, when Iskander Harappa was safely under the ground and his tough-as-nails daughter was locked away with her mother, Raza Hyder would find himself dreaming about that slap, and about all those years in which Isky Harappa had treated him like dirt. And Arjumand had been even worse; she had stared at him with such open hatred that he believed her capable of anything. Once Isky sent her, in his place, to the annual army parade, just to humiliate the soldiers by making them salute a woman, and a woman, what was more, who had no official status in the government; and Raza had made the mistake of mentioning his worries to the virgin Ironpants. "Maybe history has come between our houses," he said, "and things have gone wrong, but remember we aren't strangers, Arjumand, we go back a long way."

"I know," she said wistfully, "my brother is your cousin, I believe."

Chairman Iskander Harappa developed a toothache 30 seconds before the steers surrounded his home in the capital of unwanted airport terminals. His daughter Arjumand had just said something that tempted fate, and whenever anybody did that it made all of Iskander's betel-blackened teeth howl with supertitious anguish, especially after midnight, when such things are even more dangerous than they seem in the daylight.

"The steam has gone out of the opposition," Arjumand had suggested, much to her father's alarm. He had been musing in a contented after-dinner fashion about the rumoured escape of an albino panther in the wooded hills of Bagheeragali some 40 miles away, forcing his thoughts out of those haunted woods he scolded his daughter, "God knows how to wash off this optimism of yours; I'll have to dunk you in the reservoir behind the Barrage Dera."

Then his teeth began giving him hell, worse than ever before, and he said aloud in his surprise what he had suddenly thought: "I am smoking the last but one cigar of my life." No sooner had the prophecy left his lips than they were joined by an uninvited guest, an army officer with the saddest face in the world, Colonel Shuja, for six years ADC to General Raza Hyder. The colonel saluted and informed the

prime minister of the coup. "Beg for pardon, sir, but you must accompany me at once to the Bagheeragali rest house."

Iskander Harappa realized that he had failed to grasp the meaning of his reverie, and smiled at his own stupidity. "You see, Arjumand," he said, "they want to feed me to the panther, isn't it so?" Then he turned to Shuja and asked who had given such orders. "Chief Martial Law Administrator, sir," the colonel replied. "General Hyder, sir, beg for pardon."

"Look at my back," Iskander told his daughter, "and you will see a coward's knife."

Harappa was detained in some comfort at the government rest house in Bagheeragali, where of course he was not eaten by a panther. He even retained the use of a telephone, for incoming calls only; the Western newspapers found out the number and Iskander gave long, eloquent interviews to many overseas journalists. In these interviews he made detailed accusations, casting numerous doubts on Raza Hyder's good faith, moral fibre, sexual potency and legitimacy of birth. Still Raza remained tolerant. "That Isky," he confided to Colonel Shuja, "highly-strung bloke. Always was. And the chap is naturally upset; I'd be the same in his shoes. Also one must not believe everything one reads in the Christian press."

"Suppose you hold elections and he wins, sir," Colonel Shuja ventured as his face acquired the most dolorous expression Raza had ever seen on that unhappy countenance, "beg for pardon, sir, but what'll he do to you?"

Raza Hyder looked surprised. "What is this *do*?" he cried. "To me? His old comrade, his family member by marriage? Have I tortured him? Have I thrown him in the public lock-up? Then what is there for him to do?"

"Family of gangsters, sir," Shuja said, "those Harappas everyone knows. Revenge, crimes and what-all, it's in their blood, beg for pardon, General."

From that moment Raza Hyder's bruised forehead acquired deep furrows of thought, and two days later he announced to his ADC, "We're going to see that fellow pronto and just sort everything out."

Afterwards Colonel Shuja would swear that until that meeting between Raza and Iskander the general had never thought of assuming the presidency. "That stupid man," he always stated when asked, "brought his fate on his own head." Shuja drove with General Hyder to Bagheeragali, and as the staff car climbed the hill roads their nostrils were assailed by the sweet scent of pine-cones and beauty, those aromas which had the power of lifting the heaviest hearts and making one think that nothing was insoluble. And at the Bagheeragali bungalow the ADC waited in an antechamber while the fatal conference took place.

Iskander Harappa's premonition about the cigars had come true, because in spite of all the air-conditioning units and cut-glass goblets and Shirazi rugs and other creature comforts at the rest house he had been unable to locate a single ashtray, and when he asked the guards to have a box of his favourite Havanas sent from his home they had politely told him it was impossible.

The smoking ban possessed Isky's thoughts, wiping out his appreciation of his comfortable bed and good meals, because it was plain that somebody had ordered the guards to deny him his smokes, so he was being told something - *watch out* - and he didn't like it, no sir. The absence of cigar smoke left a rancid taste in his mouth. He began to chew betel nut non-stop, deliberately spitting the juice out on the priceless rugs, because his rage had begun to overcome the fastidious elegance of his true nature. The pains made his teeth hurt even more, so what with everything that had gone wrong inside his mouth it wasn't surprising his words turned bad as well....

Raza Hyder could not have been expecting the reception he got, because he went into Iskander's room with a conciliatory smile on his face; but the moment he shut the door the cursing began, and Colonel Shuja swore that he saw wisps of blue smoke emerging from the keyhole, as if there were a fire



inside, or 420 Havana cigars all smoking away at the same time.

Isky Harappa cursed Raza for an hour and a half without permitting any interruption. Betel juice and the absence of tobacco added to his already enormous vocabulary of imprecations a deadlier rancour than it had ever possessed in the days of his rakehell youth. By the time he finished the walls of that room were spattered from top to bottom with betel juice, the curtains were ruined, it looked as if a herd of animals had been slaughtered in there, as if turkeys or goats had been struggling wildly in their death-throes

rushing around the room with the blood spewing from the red smiles on their throats. Raza Hyder came out with a puja juice dripping off his clothes, his moustache was full of it and his hands shook as the red fluid dribbled off his fingertips, as if his hands had been washed in a bowl of Iskander's lifeblood. His face was paper-white.

General Hyder did not speak until the staff car had pulled up outside the C-in-C's residence. Then he said casually to Colonel Shuja: "I have been hearing some terrible things about Mr Harappa's period in office. That man does not deserve to be set loose. He is a menace to the country."

Two days later General Hyder's son-in-law, Talvar Ulhaq, made the statement in which, under oath, he accused Iskander Harappa of arranging for the murder of his cousin, Little Mir. When Colonel Shuja read this document he thought, wondering: "Just look where bad language will get you."

Chairman Iskander Harappa was taken from Bagheeragali rest house to the Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore. He was

kept there in solitary confinement. He suffered from malaria and from infections of the colon. There were bouts of severe influenza. His teeth began to fall out and he lost weight in other ways as well.

The trial took place in the High Court at Lahore, before five Punjab judges. At one point Iskander used the phrase, "Damn it," and was reprimanded for the use of bad language in court. He apologized: "My state of mind is not good." The Chief Justice replied: "We don't care." This made Iskander lose his temper. "I've had enough," he cried, "of insults and humiliations." The Chief Justice ordered police officers: "Take that man away until he regains his senses."

Another judge added the following remark: "We cannot tolerate this. He

thinks he is the former Prime Minister, but we do not care for him."

All this is on the record.

At the end of the six-month trial,

Iskander Harappa was sentenced to hang by the neck until dead and immediately moved into the death-cell at Kot Lakhpat jail. He was given just seven days, instead of the usual 30, to lodge an appeal.

Iskander announced: "Where there

is no justice, there is no point in seeking it. I shall not appeal."



What is the shape of death? Death's cell is ten feet long, seven wide, eight high, 62.2 cubic yards of finity beyond which there awaits a certain courtyard, a last cigar, silence. *I will insist on Romeo y Julietas. That story also ends in death...* They call this solitary confinement but he is not alone, there are flies formicating on his toenails and mosquitoes drinking from the pool of his wrists, putting the blood

to some use before it all goes to waste. Four guards in the corridor, too: in short, plenty of company. And sometimes they let his lawyers pay a call.

Through the door of the iron bars comes the stink of the latrine. In the winter he shivers but the low temperature takes the edge off that brown and fetid smell. In the hot season, they switch off the ceiling fan and the odour bubbles and swells, stuffing its putrid fingers up his nose, making his eyes bulge even though his tear ducts are dry.

Two years from fall to hanging, and almost the whole time spent in the enclosed space of death.

If it is a dream, and sometimes in

the fever of his days he thinks it is, then (he also knows) the dreamer is someone else. He is inside the dream,

or he would not be able to touch dream-insects; dream-water would not

burn him... someone is dreaming him. God, then? No, not God. He

struggles to remember Raza Hyder's

name.

Comprehension comes before the end. He, Harappa brought the general from the wilderness into the world.

The general of whom this cell is one

small aspect, who is general, omnipresent, omnivorous; it is a cell inside his head. Death and the general: Iskander sees no difference between the terms.

From darkness into light, from

nothingness into somethingness. I

made him. I was his father, he is my

son. And now I am less than he.

Then another step, which takes him

beyond such acting simplicities. The

father should be superior and the son,

inferior. But now I am low and he, high. An inversion: the parent become the child. *He is turning me into his son.*

His son. Who emerged dead from

the womb with a noose about his neck.

That noose seals my fate. Because now

he understands the cell, the throbbing

walls, the smell of excrement, the

drumbeat of a foul invisible heart:

death's belly, an inverse womb, dark

mirror of a birthplace, its purpose is to

suck him in, to draw him back and

down through time, until he hangs

foetal in his own waters, with an

umbilical cord hung fatally round his

neck. He will leave this place only

when its mechanisms have done their

work, death's baby, travelling down the

death canal, and the noose will tighten

its grip.

A man will wait a lifetime for

revenge. The killing of Iskander

Harappa avenges the still-born child.

Yes I am being unmade.

Iskander Harappa was persuaded by

his lawyers to lodge an appeal against

the High Court's sentence of death.

The appeal was heard by a bench of

seven judges sitting in the Supreme

Court in the new capital. By the time

the Supreme Court hearings ended he

had been in captivity for a year and a

half; and a further six months were to

pass before the body of the former

prime minister arrived at Moheno in

the care of Talvar Ulhaq, who had, by

then, been returned to active police

service.

Elections were not held. Raza Hyder

became president. All this is well

known.

© Samiullah DFO

moreover... Miles Kington

Whispers of old army boots

Kommunist military fiction marches on! The success of Miles and Bang, Moreover's new import, which satisfies both male and female fantasies, seems unstoppable. The secret of these tender, dangerous novels is that they are as soft as the eyelids, yet as uncompromising as a kick in the shin with an army boot.

Accordingly we present to eager readers a small run-down of new titles on our list:

Horizon of Love, by Gwendoline Fawcett

High in the skies over Downing Street Spitfire and Meissnermeide twisted and turned, each trying to gain ascendancy over the other. "Hurricane" Kate, at the controls of the Spitfire, had already shot down 20 Huns, yet knew that this time she had an opponent worthy of her.

"Get, you scum," she whispered, as she turned and bashed towards the sleek shape of the German plane. But all she saw was empty sky. Glancing back over her shoulder, she saw the horror the Meissnermeide coming down at her out of the sun. There was no way she could escape now. With desperation, she patted her hair into shape and closed her eyes.

"We'll meet again, Weiss nicht where, Weiss nicht wann," and her radio softly. She opened her eyes, just in time to see the enemy cockpit flash past and a cheery face wink at her. Johnny von Arnsdorf! The one they called the Handsome Finn. How she hated him. Horribly humiliates, she realized that he had just spared her life.

"I'll get you, Johnny," she vowed. And so indeed she would, but she never suspected that it would be Mrs Johnny von Arnsdorf, after twists and turns of fate that would leave her breathless.

The Silver Sash, by Trudi Eissen

"We do not normally take women in the Foreign Legion," said Major Pierre Danot. He paused, regarding the way her trim figure fitted into the uniform. "And yet, in your case...

...I presume you are joining to forget a great and tragic love?"</

WEDNESDAY PAGE

ALAN FRANKS' DIARY

The radical chic of it all

I am - aren't we all? - a member of a nuclear family, and the four-month-old baby is by far our most potent piece of weaponry. He goes off at irregular intervals, and, like the neutron bomb, destroys life as we know it while leaving property intact. He is doing so now. The Street Radical drops by in search of cooperation for the summer party. Fine in principle, except that his house is a Nuclear Free Zone - it says so on the front window - so presumably I would be disbarred from attending meetings there with the above progeny.

SALT talks reconvened at, where else? the breakfast table. My son is standing out for increased spending on conventional arms, including a full Robin Hood outfit and life-size claymore. He reckons this would bring him into line with his sister's receipt of a battery organ, the *Junior Tonemaster*. I explain that this does not fall within the nuclear umbrella, being an instrument of culture and harmony, but at this moment an aural toccata, more Schoenberg than Schumann, pulses in from the "music room". Not even Holt's bringer of war could soften the sinews and summon up the blood so well, and I begin to see the lad's point. This is clearly an issue for the next full **CRUET** conference (Conference to Resist Unnecessarily Expensive Toys). The baby, meanwhile, is chipping in with his own strident early warning system, which bodies ill for the mid-1980s. These emerging nations are all very well, but they are often a bit light on diplomacy.

My son appears with a gaudy brochure of the desired hardware. *Jane's Fighting Planes* could have trebled its readership with such vivid display, and I confess I am drawn to the document. But goodness, the prices. Even the most humble instrument of oblivion is an unacceptably high proportion of the gross domestic product. My son is furious at this and stamps off down the hall to convene an ad hoc YELL meeting.

I take another look at the pamphlet of death and am intrigued as to where it came from. Petrelle's boys? I doubt it: there is a freeze on relations with them. The Maitland children? No, such literature would not be countenanced in that state; the household has always held itself up as a demilitarized zone (despite the Stroessner-like paternalism of the president), a sort of Costa Rica of the

Central Richmond Isthmus. Where then? I have a hunch it emanates from the Street Radical's preserve. Just a hunch, but a very strong one. I fancy there is a marked strain of bellicosity in his protectorate. You only have to look at his recruits, Fidel and Raoul, and their wild-eyed forays into the scrubland of the park.

First meeting of SPOC (Summer Party Organization Committee). We are chez Street Radical in his surprisingly bijou dwelling. There are Sandinista posters behind frameless plexiglass against the hessian, and the rear sector of the knocked-through lounge is solid with Bahuchistan. Around the table are Mr and Mrs Radical (she too is in publishing); two of them (I do not mean to be unkind) token pensioners; myself and - dear God - Petrelle. Not even Contadora could have assembled such a range of potential dissonants. I have put my head in the lion's mouth by bringing the neutron bomb with me, but Fidel and Raoul are showing a surprising sense of rapport (I hope that is what it is) by slinking across the Amico towards the pram.

A breakdown in the CRUET talks

with a chasm between the two superpowers (wife and self), and heightened tension among the client states. I realize now that we have gone multilateral (beleaguered on all sides).

Radical roars down the road in his poor man's Range-Rover - the Rancho Sunatra or Macho Sinatra or whatever it is - and my hand about the pamphlet hardens into a conviction.

Second SPOC meeting. It now transpires that party proceeds are to go to CND, at which point the pensioners, and Petrelle, stand up to leave. There is no warlike aspect to match that of the Old Dear when roused. Petrelle, of course, needs no such metamorphosis. I have in my hand a piece of paper, to coin a phrase. It is THAT PAMPHLET, smuggled in beneath the counterculture of the pram, and I let it drop on to the Amico as the Radical boys teem into the smoke-filled conference room with the glint of fresh arcotiles in their eyes. The elder one (quite a senior citizen at nine), snatches it from the floor, screaming: "It's mine! It's mine!"

A compromise: party profits will now go to the NSPCC. Save the Parents will not take this lying down.



TALKBACK

Still in fear

From a reader in south-west London: As one of those "battered wives" we hear so much about, I would like to put another side of the access rights controversy.

For years I was married to a very violent man until I finally escaped with my two sons to a Woman's Aid refuge. In due course I obtained various injunctions, custody orders and my degree. Because I feel that my sons had a right to see him I did not fight the access order. I am now committed, for the next 10 years, to making sure that the children are at a certain place at a certain time three Sundays a month.

What this means is that I can never be free of him. He will always know where I am, what I do, whom I see and who visits me; he questions the children about this all the time. Any future relationship I may form will be overshadowed by the fear that he will know about it and that my friends will be harassed (or worse). Violent men rarely have any respect for the law, they act first and consider the consequences afterwards.

I lost my home and all my possessions (my fear of reprisal outweighed everything else), and I can hardly be said to have gained my freedom or even peace of mind. Having lived in fear of this man for years I find I am still living in fear of him - because the access rights demand that I have to do so.

Cervical cancer

From Dr O. A. N. Husain, Regional Cytology Centre, The Division of Pathology, Victoria Health Authority, St Stephen's Hospital, Chelsea, SW10.

Your article, "How Screen Tests Can Save Lives" (August 17), has missed an important point at issue. The screening programme of the NHS carries out about three million smears each year to cover the 15 to 17 million women at risk from cervical cancer. If evenly spread over the population, such an effort would have a substantial effect on the mortality rate from this cancer, which crisis, on average, for some five to 10 years as a detectable pre-cancerous condition. Of all the smear tests received by the screening laboratories in this country, some 55 per cent come from those under 35 years old (from about seven million women) compared with 45 per cent from the 14 million over 35.

Veronica Grocock talks to a woman to whom keeping the house clean is a painful obsession

Betty Friedan, the American writer, once declared, in a variation on Parkinson's Law, that "housework expands to fill the time available". The year was 1963, and Ms Friedan's book, *The Feminist Mystique*, became a seminal feminist text for its exposure of the "bored housewife" syndrome. Despite the benefits of labour-saving gadgets, she observed, the modern housewife probably spent more time on housework than her grandmother did.

Twenty years on, June Quenhen's bungalow in Lewes, a microcosm of neatness in this small, spruce Sussex town, is tangible testimony to the claim. She shares it with husband Steve, a freelance composer and arranger, their 13-year-old son Timothy, and a cat called Mu-lon.

The family home is spotless, utterly devoid of dust and clutter. Walls and surfaces gleam, most of the furniture is modern and functional, and every item has its allotted place. Nothing less would satisfy June Quenhen, whose desire for a tidy home oversteps normal boundaries of domestic punctiliousness. Her days are dominated by a punishing ritual of cleaning, washing and polishing, in strict rotational order, from nine in the morning until tea time (shopping, cooking and other chores have to be fitted in later). It is a daily obsession that has remained with her throughout 31 years of marriage, despite all attempts to thwart it with drugs, psychotherapy and electric shock treatment.

A smartly dressed, intelligent and articulate woman of 34, June Quenhen can rationalize her bizarre obsession, and even joke about it, albeit in a weary, déjà vu fashion. But if she ever tries to stop the ritual, she becomes hysterical or deeply depressed.

"The depression seems to lift when I've finished cleaning", she says. "I feel I've achieved something at the end of each day. I haven't, but my head feels clearer."

"The family suffer terribly. The thought of any mess is devastating for me. I live in terror of burglars."

They were burgled once, in their previous home in Brighton. Luckily, she recalls wryly, "he was an exceptionally tidy burglar". The Quenhen rarely entertain at home, because of the inevitable disruption to her routine. Yet it is here to reconcile June Quenhen's poised, outgoing manner and well-groomed appearance with the "obsessional" tag. She seems the antithesis of the flustered household drudge.

"It's a big act", she says, "a facade that I've adopted over the years. I go to great lengths not to make people feel uncomfortable. I can keep up appearances, but I get in such a terrible state inside that I feel sick with it. It makes friendships a bit limited. I often wonder what would happen if the house was on fire. I'm



sure I would still have to finish cleaning it!"

Although she laughs now and again at what she terms her "madness", she is only too aware of the resultant strains on family life. She still feels guilty about her decision to send Timothy, an only child, to boarding school. "He was only eight. I wouldn't allow his friends in the house, and that is so very bad for a child. He couldn't play or develop properly. She always tidyding his toys and putting them away."

Timothy, who plans to move out soon and share a flat, is reticent by nature, but admits that his mother's obsessional behaviour has been "getting on my nerves quite a bit over the past few months. It does affect you, because of other things at the end of each day. I haven't, but my head feels clearer."

"The depression seems to lift when I've finished cleaning", she says. "I feel I've achieved something at the end of each day. I haven't, but my head feels clearer."

"The family suffer terribly. The thought of any mess is devastating for me. I live in terror of burglars."

They were burgled once, in their previous home in Brighton. Luckily, she recalls wryly, "he was an exceptionally tidy burglar". The Quenhen rarely entertain at home, because of the inevitable disruption to her routine. Yet it is here to reconcile June Quenhen's poised, outgoing manner and well-groomed appearance with the "obsessional" tag. She seems the antithesis of the flustered household drudge.

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THE ARTS

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Bridget Reilly's long interest in the dynamics of form and colour has at last, perhaps inevitably, turned her to designing for dance: Ballet Rambert première Robert North's *Colour Moves* at the King's Theatre tomorrow. Interview by Roger Berthoud

Shining visions of an abstract future

Bridget Reilly with her wall decorations for the Royal Liverpool Hospital and (right) working with assistants on the designs for *Colour Moves*

Given Bridget Reilly's deep interest as an abstract painter in the dynamic properties of form and colour, it was an inspired idea of the Ballet Rambert's artistic director, Robert North, to commission her to design a new ballet, her first. Judging by a model at her home in Holland Park, her work is likely to make strong impact when *Colour Moves* has its debut at the Edinburgh Festival tomorrow. North has done the choreography, the music is by Christopher Beauford and the costumes by Andrew Storer.

A slim woman of 31 with short, dark hair and very blue eyes, she explains how she set about the task. "Robert North invited me to go first," as it were, that is, to design the sets first. The music and choreography would then be set to the visual situation I had made. That was a tremendously exciting challenge.

"Robert liked the studies I had pinned up around the studio, he liked the way one colour reacted upon another, and thought that we could make an abstract colour ballet on the

basis of these relationships. Initially I took five colours and designed five backcloths, each dominated by one colour. The sequence of the cloths had to be thought about: red and yellow form natural high points, for instance, while blues and greens are quieter.

"The next difficulty was how to link the colours so they formed a continuous whole. We decided to use the colours of the costumes to make the transitions, so the dancers carry the development of the ballet from one colour-space, set or act to the next."

As she worked on the cloths, she noticed that a blue dancer against a blue cloth gave a mysterious, ethereal, almost disembodied feeling, while the same blue dancer leaps to life against a vivid yellow cloth. So, by reacting upon each other, the dancers and backcloths generate distinct moods and give the ballet a theme of metamorphosis. All the colours come together in stripes in a colour-space, set or act to the next."

Those vertical stripes of colour form the subject-matter of her latest

paintings. Why stripes rather than the more complex designs on which her international reputation was built? "They have the maximum exposure of edge," she says, "and it's along the edges that the interactions take place."

"When two colours interact, they produce a third, disembodied colour which takes the form of coloured light and seems to come off the canvas. Viewing distance is crucial, and so is the light in which it is seen: daylight is by far the best." She was not, she points out, aiming for any interaction of that sort in the recently unveiled wall decoration for some corridors of the Royal Liverpool Hospital, but rather for an effect of brilliance and well-being.

It is tempting to see a link between Bridget Reilly's originality and her having been spared much formal education. She lived with her mother, sister and an aunt before and during the war in a north Cornwall cottage with no mod cons. Her father, a businessman, served in the Far East and was missing for 18 months; his wages were paid at

first, but had to be paid back when he was presumed killed. Then he turned up in a Japanese camp on the infamous Burma-Siam railway line – and the wages were returned. He is still very much alive, aged 83.

It was a wonderfully exciting and makeshift life for a child, she recalls. Her aunt, who had been to art school, and her mother encouraged her to paint and draw. Education at the hands of local ladies was meagre but often fun, and a boarding convent school came as a nasty shock. When she was admitted, aged 15, to Cheltenham Ladies' College, mainly on a wave of sympathy for returning PoWs, she was found to be four years behind her peers in schooling.

But she was allowed to concentrate on art, and progressed rapidly with the guidance of the art master, Colin Hayes, now at the Royal College of Art and a Royal Academician; and did very well thereafter at the Goldsmiths School of Art thanks to a fine drawing teacher, Sam Rabine, if less well subsequently in the freer atmosphere of

the Royal College of Art. Only when she later met the painter Maurice de Sausmarez were her eyes properly opened, via the work of Seurat, to a surer handling of colour, hitherto her main weakness.

"I had ten years in the wilderness, lost confidence, fell into despair, all those things." She taught teenagers in a convent school, she taught at night schools and at Wandsworth Prison.

"Working with children I discovered that, the greater the limitations, the more inventive the results. I would say:

"Use reds only, and cover the area so that the reds touch each other. You would be amazed at the variety of the results."

Then came two stretches as a set of

traveling draughtsmen with the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency, which were good for her confidence: she learned that one had to work through problems, and that she could work to order.

Only around 1960 did she find her way towards her distinctive style. "I started to paint movement in sequences, the principle of which was a regular

structure disturbed, and I saw these explosive visual energies emerging on the paper. That gave me the cue, and on that principle I worked for a long time."

"She might take a regular pattern of black circles on a white background,

then gradually change them into ovals

and their colour to a whitish grey. One of the assumptions is that I have studied optics, and am a friend of mathematics. It's quite wrong. It's all done empirically."

There is still much trial and error as she and two assistants work at huge tables in the three studios in her house on preliminary studies for the final paintings, seeking to produce those interactions and to disengage the possibilities of colour. Of one thing she is convinced: "Abstract painting is in its infancy, and what I am doing is simply beginning to draw on the inherent possibilities of colour. What Sienna painting was to the art of the High Renaissance, current abstract painting is to future developments.

There will be great abstract colour

painting in the future."

Promenade Concerts

Each for himself

Bream Consort
St Luke's, Chelsea/
Radio 3

This was a period piece, in more ways than one.

James Savage's splendid church of St Luke, Chelsea, where John Goss and John Ireland were organists, is a welcome addition to Prom venues: it accommodates 900 people, though with evidently poor sightlines from the galleries, and has a fine nave 50 feet high (when it was built in the 1920s, it was the first high stone-vaulted church to be completed since the Reformation). The ample resonance of the church, however, would make it more suitable for a Prom of choral music – *Julis* and *Schubert* in 1987 – than it was for the busy detail of the consort music performed by Julian Bream and friends.

No one has done more to alert us to the splendours of Elizabethan music than Bream, and years ago he gave pioneering performances of Thomas Morley's famous collection *Collection of Lessons*. More recently he decided to re-form his own Consort, and it has made several tours. But the principle on which it operates is still that of a couple of decades ago: brilliant, animated performances by Bream himself in the centre of the ensemble, scampering away like some seventeenth-century Giulini with the written-out divisions of Morley's arrangements, surrounded by sober, straight-faced accompaniments from the rest of the group.

Bream does encourage his collaborators to blossom – there were some nicely-turned exchanges with the treble viol of Catherine Mackintosh in "Grimstock", and the whole ensemble acquired a crisp rhythmic life in the "Monsieur's Almain" (a setting attributed to Byrd); but on the whole there is no improvisatory spirit perceptible here; phrasing is dull, articulation routine, and it is Bream's show.

So it was solo virtuosity that made the strongest impression: Bream's own multicoloured "Alison's Kneel", James Tyler's lament up in Holborne's setting of "As I went to Walsingham" and at the end – not a moment too soon – the divertingly melifluous rendering of three Morley songs (with a fourth added for an encore) by Robert Tear. There was little here which acknowledged the strides forward made in the three decades since Bream's early work, but, more worryingly, there was little that gave an impression of sparkling, animated musical interplay – I heard far more of that in *Julis* in Britain in the car on my way home.

Nicholas Kenyon

RPO/Groves
Albert Hall/Radio 3

No orchestra can be envied the task of playing a note of Sibelius so soon after the CBSO's provocative and regenerating South Bank cycle under Simon Rattle. But advance programming is merciless, and the Royal Philharmonic with Sir Charles Groves were put to the test in Sibelius's Fourth Symphony at Monday night's Prom.

It was a rendering which seemed to be being held from somewhere behind Sibelius's shoulder, rather than by ears already quickened by the harmonic and structural disruption of the century it was reaching out to. With its gently shaped contours, its sense of almost affectionate resignation rather than bleakness, it became more a corporate valediction than an isolated quest.

At least, it would be nice to think that was the idea, rather than that, through lack of the score's being anything like deep enough under the skin, the players were simply prevented from reaching its stark, uncompromising heart. For often, even in its own vision seemed curiously ill-defined: legato was too often flatid; where it should be tense, climaxes were laboriously rather than inexorably approached, entries and ensemble were blurred.

Earlier in the evening, Alfred Brendel had been the soloist in the equally enigmatic, constantly perplexing Fourth Piano Concerto of Beethoven. For Brendel on Monday it seemed a fountain of ideas and impulses. The more rarely played second cadenza, less brooding in its insistence, more brittle and harmonically abrasive, was used in the first movement; and it seemed to emphasize the mercurial, almost teasing character of the reading as a whole. Even the slow movement, glassy, still and wide-eyed, could have been a *trompe-l'œil* – and too often one could have wished that the orchestra, with its reluctant and lack-lustre repartee, had been just that.

Hilary Finch

• The guitarist John Williams is to be artistic director of South Bank Summer Music 1984. He succeeds Simon Rattle, and is the seventh to hold the post since its inception in 1968.



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Television

Sonorous phrases with all too little meaning

Alan Greenberg originally intended *Land of Look Behind* to be a documentary about the funeral of Bob Marley, the reggae singer and song-writer who died of cancer in Miami aged 36 in 1981. In a short, tempestuous life, Marley became known as a Third World superstar, sold his records all around the world and became a legend in his native Jamaica.

To mark his passing, 100,000 people gathered there in the national arena to celebrate him in song and verse. Something may have happened to Mr Greenberg

at this vivid function, for the documentary got away from him and what we saw last night on Channel 4 was described as a documentary fantasy which seemed, and proved to be, a contradiction in terms.

Much of the film which was excellently shot, was in semi-Creole and, though subtitles were provided, they were not generous enough to satisfy the curious about the Rastafarian belief, which Marley embraced, or even the reggae music he did so much to establish.

We began with a man chopping wild pineapple and plucking forth the toads that dwell therein. It seemed we might be in for an interesting nature lecture but he moved on to speak of the fearful forest of *Look Behind* which lurked near the village of Quick Step in which he lived and to plead for industry and aid for his people, which seemed very necessary.

This sally into development themes, however, was as short-lived as the nature lecture, and

soon we were into a bewildering world of dreadlocks, reggae music and much smoking of ganja, an intoxicating preparation made, I understand, from the female flowering tops of Indian hemp.

Greenberg's film, which has apparently won an award, was one of those which shroud a multitude of images under the umbrella "impressionistic".

Marley himself was a prodigious smoker of marijuana, and a young man recorded his fear of smoking a hundred joints a day with some envy. Various singers and poets did their bits, giving us some sonorous phrases which reached for profundity but had not a lot of meaning. In short, Mr

Dennis Hackett

Theatre in Edinburgh

Women in Power
Music Hall

lady herself that made its own points about her femininity. Underneath all that, however, a predictable mixture of snappy oratory and rallying cries to revolution is still there and it is the show's dominant impression.

Thanos Mikrouskos's score often drops cliché Greekness in favour of routine rock-musical numbers: "gymnasticised by the deafening percussion crashes that regularly had Aristophanes' heroes rushing for the chamber pot, or a couple of rousing militiam ensembles".

Praxagora herself (Carol Kidd) crosses her opening solo immediately into a mice, then yields her central rôle to the curiously-named Kleonike in her handie-mousetache Elizabeth MacLennan makes a Faun-like Villa of Athenian feminism, behind whose card-board persona the sensitivity and honesty of her performance as the skivvy wife in *Men Should Weep* keep breaking through.

After an hour or so as a boring husband revealingly grumbling that women have no tradition of responsibility, Kenneth Bryans earns his bit of fun as the next transformation of Aristophanes' sausages vendor into a Social Democrat with Roy Jenkins's Rude, peddling a stall full of adulterated tripe that includes Keith Havers's guts. And, as ladies' man who suddenly finds himself washing nappies, Jimmy Chiniboh presses his feminine wiles into service as "our" extremely powerful and sprightly Prime Minister" in the sort of portrait mask whose effectiveness has not diminished over 25 centuries.

Anthony Masters

Music outside London

Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra

Christ Church, Oxford

When the English Bach Festival slipped away from Oxford a few years ago to seek pastures new in Europe, it left a gap in the professional musical life of the city (as distinct from its always flourishing amateur activities). "Music at Oxford", a series of 21 concerts which ended at the weekend, is hardly a parallel undertaking, for it uses only one venue, Christ Church Cathedral, and has in its first season been confined to the summer, out-of-term months.

But its programmes, unstructured by grants, have been a splendid, and, to judge from the packed cathedral on Sunday, it certainly fills a need: it was oddly appropriate that this final concert should have presented the new Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra at the end of a British tour, which has not included London, for it was back in 1975 that Koopman's earlier group, Musica Antiqua Amsterdam, appeared at the Bach Festival at Oxford with Philippe Herreweghe's Collegium Vocal of Ghent in a pair of unforgettable concerts.

Koopman's new ensemble is not just Dutch: like its rival, Frans Bruggen's Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century (which visits Edinburgh next week), its membership is international, and the string section, led by Monica Huggert, is almost entirely English. Thus the famed skills of continental wind players are matched with the facility – which continental colleagues envy – of our string players. The results

Nicholas Kenyon

What a Night!...What a Knight

Sir John Mills in

Little Lies

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Newley's Chaplin with the uncannily accurate Stan Laurel of Jim MacGeorge

recognized superstar. He set the pattern for all the other Hollywood Greats – even to commanding personal scandal with creative achievement. What sustains *Chaplin* is the fascination of its central subject and the fidelity with which history is told. What saps its energies is the aforementioned lustreless score, an uncertainty as to what kind of musical idiom is best suited to make its points and a fatal permissiveness towards letting "real life" dictate the curve of the dramatic structure.

The musical form thrives on diversions and digressions rather than solid chronological progression. Show-stoppers are almost always arbitrary items that simply glory in song and dance no matter what their pertinence to the main design – as, for instance, in Gilbert and Sullivan. That happens once or twice during the show, but never sufficiently strongly to break the dogged continuity.

Chaplin's greatest invention was probably the twentieth-century idea of celebrity. Before him, no one was an internationally

child star in England who quickly made a success as a singer, writer and movie-maker, he falls into that now-familiar category of artist whose versatility is unquestionable but who is never quite the sum total of his parts. Musically, using a heavily pulsating vibrato, he always struck me with no apparent gift for visual comedy to try to essay Chaplin's comic genius is biting off not only more than he can chew but even more than he can comfortably wedge into his mouth.

Despite the recesses in its foundation, almost all of the show's topography, in a beautifully coordinated production by Michael Smuin, is visually compelling and, although brilliant sets, costumes and lighting cannot make a show, they go a long way towards making this one consistently watchable in a marginal kind of way. But as for recreating the artistry of Chaplin and the complexity of the man, it is a little like trying to focus on a subject using a kaleidoscope rather than a telescope.

To be fair to him, Newley's energy and creativity are precisely the stuff out of which commercial success is made and, as a kind of modern incarnation of Dion Boucicault, he has both visibility and a certain popular appeal. Unfortunately, in tackling a subject of such proportions, he

Charles Marowitz

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THE TIMES DIARY

Red scare

Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West and chairman of the GLC arts committee, has written to ask Cecil Parkinson, as chairman of the Conservative Party, to protect Ken Livingstone from physical violence. What excites Banks's concern is a remark attributed to Sir William Gibson Clark, the Tories' finance chairman, that if Livingstone succeeds in getting a stand at this year's Conservative Party conference "it would need police protection from some right-wing Tories". This, Banks claims, is an incitement to violence. "Imagine the headlines had a Labour Party representative made such a statement about Labour conference delegates," he says, reasonably enough. Livingstone is determined to organize a GLC stand while the Conservatives are in Blackpool, if not in an adjacent hotel, whether or not Parkinson sends a reassuring reply.

Stay cool

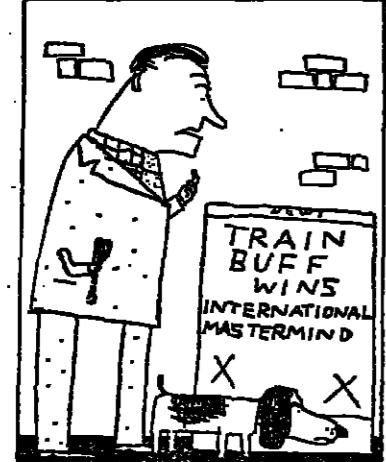
Sir Roy Strong must be glad the heat is off. At the very time that his attack on London theatres was launched in these pages — "human bodies cooped up together in an un-airconditioned space" — visitors to his own new Henry Cole wing at the V & A were repeatedly getting stuck in the un-airconditioned lift, an hour at a time in barely endurable temperatures, the only firm that could rescue them having to be called from Clapham. The pot may get away with calling the kettle black, but should avoid calling it hot.

• Sir Philip Goodhart's letter to The Times yesterday asked the most appropriate precious metal, mineral or gem to give his wife for their forthcoming 33rd wedding anniversary. Anxious to help, I looked up atomic number 33 in the periodic table of elements. It is arsenic.

New view

Somali television burst upon an avid world at the weekend with its first test transmissions. The fledgling service is a multinational effort, with Kuwaitis building the transmission station, Italians setting up the national network and Egyptians training personnel. Iraqis were to be involved, but in the event were too busy killing Iranians.

BARRY FANTONI



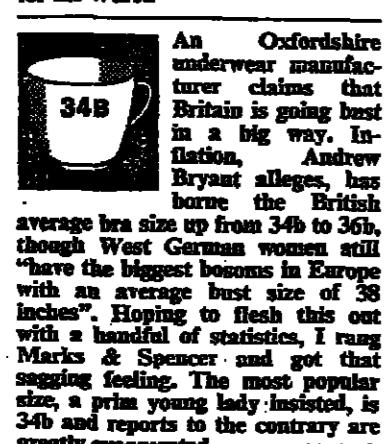
Good in part

The most singular show in the Edinburgh Fringe is a one-man performance by the Icelandic actor Vidor Egg. Egg insists that he only plays before an audience of one. He "seeks to explore the actor-audience relationship" and can give his full attention to only one audience at a time. All his performances have been sell-outs and the price of tickets, yesterday £9, increases by £1 a day. My PHSpY has not seen the show, because no review tickets are available. I do not think this has anything to do with the fact that on Circuit '83, a fairground beneath the Usher Hall, one of Egg's neighbours is a company called Omlette.

• Dick Turpin has just been appointed assistant manager of the National Westminster Bank's Louth branch. His extra-curricular activities, according to a notice sent to customers, stop at cricket, squash, golf, fishing and motor maintenance.

Gullstones

Happily for the PHSAusage joke contest, only fragments remain of *The Sausage*, a comedy written by the Greek dramatist Epicharmus about 500 BC. Otherwise age would not have deterred readers from sending me the whole text. I have doubts about the freshness of most of the offerings as it is. A. A. Smale, for example, admits that his "treatments in half-dress" dates back to 1774, 1942. I award a sausage clock prize to Ian Wilkes for his, which is bad enough to be original. A German butcher's motto was to leave no tern unstoned, because he specialized in seabird sausages. Every morning he went to the beach to throw stones at the birds, and whenever he hit one would shout: "There's another for the Wurst!"



PHS

Who will succeed the King?

Jerusalem
When Menachem Begin confessed that he had heard nothing about the Beirut massacre last September until tuning in to the BBC 48 hours after it began, it should have been clear that something was seriously amiss either with his will or ability to govern.

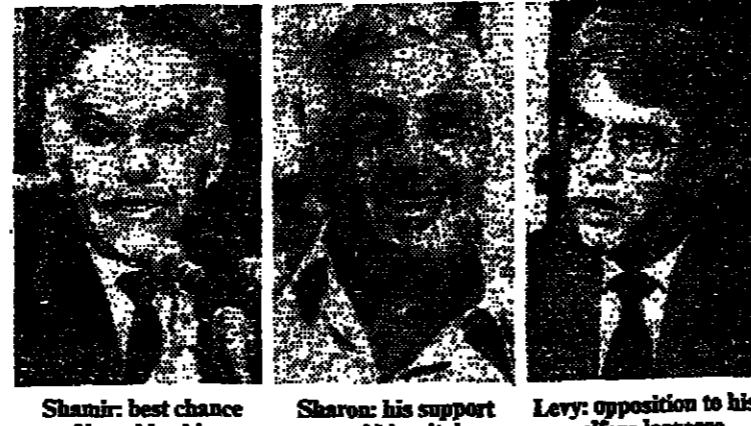
But in the ensuing months, despite his growing mood of introverted despondency following the tragic death of his wife, the message somehow failed to sink into Israel's national psyche. As a result, this week's undignified and agonizing drawn-out resignation has come as a profound political shock.

As the first news began to travel from table to table in the cafés of Jerusalem's main shopping mall, the customers looked stunned with disbelief. "We must tell him not to go. He is our father. We cannot live without him," shouted one man.

Later, hundreds of distraught people gathered outside his official residence chanting "Begin, King of Israel". Although accepting that their efforts would be in vain, they seemed unable to think how else to react.

The main cause of the intensity of the personal reaction — just as strong among those delighted by the departure of Israel's most hawkish prime minister — is the effortless fashion in which Mr Begin has so far dominated the political stage since coming to power in 1977.

Even during his recent decline, he has stood head and shoulders not only above those in his party, but also above any politician whom the main Labour opposition has been able to put up — especially its leader, the distinctly uncharismatic Shimon Peres, shown in the latest opinion poll to be supported as Labour's candidate for prime minister by a derisive 6 per cent of the population.



Shamir: best chance
Sharon: his support
Levy: opposition to his welfare largesse

It is precisely because of Mr Begin's domination of the ruling Likud coalition and his reluctance to designate an heir apparent to lead his own right-wing Herut party that his sudden departure will pose such problems for the government.

As the *Jerusalem Post* put it bluntly, "It will be the test of whether the Likud does have a life after Menachem Begin, or whether it is simply a function of his political will".

According to a poll earlier this month, Mr Begin was preferred as Likud prime minister by 42.1 per cent of the public compared with only 8.7 per cent for the runner-up, the former Defence Minister, Ezer Weizman, who has been in self-imposed political exile at his villa in Caesarea since leaving the Cabinet in 1980. Behind him was Moshe Arens, the new Defence Minister and articulate former ambassador to Washington, with 4.8 per cent, and then David Levy, the able Sephardic Deputy Prime Minister, who scored 3.1 per cent.

Yitzhak Shamir, now tipped as Mr Begin's likely successor, was even lower down. At the age of 67, Mr Shamir was being described by his backers as the stop-gap candidate most able to secure broad support in party forums. A former member of the Mossad secret service and a founder of the Stern Gang, the most ruthless pre-state Jewish terrorist group, he was once detained by the British. Since replacing Moshe Dayan as Foreign Minister he has performed solidly but without noticeable impact.

Mr Shamir has none of Mr Begin's flair for communication and little of his popular following. But he could attract the widest support just because he is not seen as a long-term leader.

The timing of Mr Begin's departure has ruled out both Mr Arens (regarded as President Reagan's preferred candidate) and Mr Weizman as immediate hopefuls because neither is a member of the Knesset.

The present dire state of the economy appears to have destroyed the leadership chances of Yoram Aridor, the once influential Finance Minister, while the only other possible contender, Ariel Sharon, is still recovering from the near-fatal

political blow dealt by the inquiry commission into the Beirut massacre. This has left him relegated to the sidelines as Minister without Portfolio, but his street following could make him an important kingmaker.

This would leave Mr Shamir and Mr Levy — at the age of 45, the darling of the underprivileged Sephardi community and the father of 11 children — to fight it out. Although Mr Levy has far greater grassroots support, it was argued yesterday that he could face vigorous opposition from the Likud Party, the second largest group in the Knesset because of his support for free-spending social and welfare policies. Apart from sharing a similar hawkish approach to future Israeli control of the occupied West Bank, Mr Shamir and Mr Levy both held early jobs as building labourers and both are reported to have gone to the same language tutor to brush up their English.

The succession battle is expected to be tough and quite unlike the doting gentlemanly struggle behind closed doors while Mr Begin was still in power. On the troubled economic front, where inflation is now running at 130 per cent, Mr Begin's eventual successor will face a severe test of his political skills, as he will in resolving the future of the costly involvement in Lebanon.

Although the future is uncertain, on the key question of Israel's dominance over the 2,200 square miles of the occupied West Bank, it appears that Mr Begin was close to securing the grandiose wish which he declared two years ago when asked how he would like to be remembered by history. "As the man who set the borders of Eretz Israel (the Biblical land of Israel) for all eternity," he replied.

Christopher Walker

If the sun has to set, don't stand in the way

Our Island Story — A History of Britain for Boys and Girls and Our Empire Story are nice, big fat books, well written, in good print and full of humane patriotism. Though first published at the turn of the century, they are still used to introduce children to history, certainly in my family.

The author, H. E. Marshall, refers to Britain in a preface as "the little island in the West". Such ironic understatement relies on centuries of success and security for its effect. The last thing we have ever been is a little island. True, today some would like to cut us down to size, and edge us eastwards (into the Baltic?), sans Europe, sans defence, sans Nato, sans pretty well everything. The electorate has given its verdict on the isolationist option. But insular thinking takes many forms and is not confined to the left.

The last edition of *Our Island Story* finishes after the Second World War, before decolonization. Mercifully, the penitential breast-beating is at last subsiding.

But it is too soon for serenity, both historically and because we still have three major problems — three islands, as it happens — to deal with the Falklands, Hongkong, and (stretching the point to a peninsula), Gibraltar.

Given realism and a sense of proportion, there is no reason why we should not reach a settlement combining British interests, rights and duties with Chinese intentions.

Hongkong symbolizes much that is best in the British colonial record (once we drew a veil over how we came by it). Theoretically, part of it is ours in perpetuity, though again the substance intrudes. China being a fairly substantial sort of place. We have clear responsibilities towards Hongkong. I lived there for two years and admire the people as much as anyone. But it would be dangerously Quixotic to inflate our obligations beyond our ultimate ability to guarantee in practice the welfare of its inhabitants.

Given realism and a sense of proportion, there is no reason why we should not reach a settlement combining British interests, rights and duties with Chinese intentions.

Gibraltar, too, is appended to a country of consequence. There is no need to rehash our obligations to the people of the colony. What does need emphasis are our future relations with Madrid during this sensitive phase of its absorption into the western democratic camp. One way to avoid a choice between our responsibilities towards Gibraltar and a confrontation with resolute Spain is not to fix our sights unrealistically high in matters concerning the Rock.

The style of governments is indivisible. Our revolution is in a spirit of solidarity. If we do, we could be sucked into a centrifugal preoccupation with the periphery, with a proportionate decline in our image and influence in the wider world. Atalanta, fleet of foot, was waylaid by just three apples... So we face something of a challenge. But we have the leadership and the professionalism to ensure that this chapter of *Our Island Story* finishes with neither a bang nor whimper, but with a diplomatic grace note.

George Walden

For many years Roy Medvedev, one of Russia's leading historians, has been unable to get a teaching job. He has joined the shadowy group of non-persons in the Soviet Union who cannot get employment in their chosen field because they write and say things deemed to be subversive.

His plight is little different from that of a growing number of non-persons in Britain blacklisted because of their political views.

Perhaps the best known is Derek Robinson, a kindly and impressive working-class intellectual who for many years was the senior convenor at BL's Longbridge plant. The crime for which he was dismissed

without any written or verbal warning — was the joint authorship of a thoughtful pamphlet, *The Edwards Plan and You*, that advocated an expansionist strategy for the company as worked for it

contained, however, a brief passage which management held to be unacceptable. "In other industries like UCS (Upper Clyde Shipbuilders), workmen and occupations have been necessary to prevent closures. If necessary, we shall have to do the same."

As a free-born Englishman, Robinson had every right to express a point of view different from that of management, including citing the example of what the Upper Clyde shipworkers had done to defend their jobs. Yet he has never worked again in the car industry. As a known communist militiaman, he shall be persecuted to protect the majority.

As the *News of the World* put it, "mole-hunting (and make no mistake, the red variety are not cuddly, furry creatures) is not a sport in Britain. It is a necessity". The same message was put differently but, in a way, more menacingly, by a paper read by many personnel managers. "The need for care in the recruitment of labour," warned the *Daily Telegraph*, "cannot be overstated".

Fleet Street's grand inquisitors are now baying for more blood and, in some cases, extending the definition of "mole" to include, as Bruce Keimle of the Sun put it, "left-wing disruptives".

In a guide to "10 ways to ferret out a red mole" he listed such "give-away clues" as a liking for Channel 4 being "anti-American", reading "long, in-depth articles about the war in Nicaragua".

Such articles would be merely

funny if they did not have a darker side. Men and women should not be denied jobs which have no national security significance because of their political views.

And the growing tendency ideologically to vet applicants for manual clerical jobs (in a way that would rightly produce a howl of outrage if extended to the middle-class professions) represents an ominous shift towards Soviet-style ideological policing. Liberty, as George Orwell powerfully argued, means allowing people freely to say things you do not want to hear. It is a definition of freedom worth defending, as we move towards 1984.

The author is editor of *New Socialist*.

Jock Bruce-Gardyne

Beware Japanese bearing jobs

In Japan, so legend has it, age prevails. We in the West are inclined to think that a business with an octogenarian chairman needs a boardroom revolution. In Japan, we are told, the weight attached to a chairman's whims grows with the passing of his eightieth birthday.

Last, but by no means least, there is the British domestic car industry.

We have pumped more than £1,000m into BL and hundreds of millions more into Rootes/Chrysler/Talbot — where the Department of Industry is just now trying to stop Peugeot doing anythingasty at Ryton.

On top of that we have handed over many tens of millions

to persuade Ford to go — no doubt to its subsequent regret — to Halewood and, more recently, to Bridgend.

Subsidizing rival concerns with tax-payers' money has always struck me as a mug's game. But at least BL is as British as they come, while Ford and Chrysler/Talbot have done a lot of real manufacturing here. Bribing Nissan to set up a competing plant sounds daft.

This is not an argument against overseas investment in favour of protection. France's much publicized *white whale* of channelling all Japanese video through Poitiers is a classic case of cutting off the nose to spite the face. Since the French do not make videos, the only possible sufferers are the Germans and the Dutch, and the only possible sufferers are the French consumers, who have to pay more.

If Nissan wished to set up shop here at its own expense, good luck to it. Paying Nissan not to do so is a different matter altogether. When Patrick Jenkins sold the Japanese a few months ago that they refused to accept a container-load of sovereigns for a UK factory then we would not let them sell their cars to us at all, they must have wondered if they had heard right.

Perhaps it may not happen. Perhaps the excellent Mr Kawamoto will change his mind again. Perhaps the outburst by Mr Ichiro Shioji of the Nissan trade union will scare the board. If so we shall be deeply in their debt, although I don't suppose it will be seen that way. The new jobs are what it's all about; and it is part of the ethos of the Department of Industry — not to mention the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland offices — that new jobs in place of those already in existence are a snap. After all, it is not their money they are bargaining with.

The author was economic secretary to the Treasury in Mrs Thatcher's last government.

James Curran

Bosses who keep a little list

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But the way that non-persons are created in Britain is generally less conspicuous. In the past 10 years many companies have adopted increasingly formalized procedures for vetting job applicants in a way that systematically screens out well-known militiamen.

The Institute of Directors is an enthusiastic advocate of this form of ideological policing. "Our advice", Wendy Hutton, the institute's press officer, told me, "is to step up voting procedures and look out for trouble-makers who apply for jobs. They have to be stopped."

The way this has been done varies between different companies (with some still rightly refusing to operate a system of political screening). But documents shown to me suggest that the misuse of references to demand and obtain information about workers' political leanings and union commitments has become depressingly widespread in the past decade, even in nationalized industries. For example, Roy Roebuck, works manager of a BSC subsidiary at Greenwich, asked the personnel manager at BSC's Ebbw Vale works:

"I would also be interested to learn whether the applicant, mentioned below has a background of political involvement."

In some companies this ideological vetting takes the form of blackballing union negotiators who are not compliant. "Disruptive attitudes when acting as shop steward... would you re-employ?"

"No", reads one chilling assessment from the *Holiday group*.

The author is editor of *New Socialist*.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

CAN LEBANON EXIST?

There is a sort of parallel between the internal situation of the Israeli government and the problem it faces in Lebanon. Mr Begin has made up his mind to withdraw from the political arena, and his government has made up its mind to withdraw from the Chouf. Both decisions reflect a mixture of sheer weariness and the knowledge that to stay on involves considerable risks, with little to be positively achieved. Yet both have caused consternation among friends and allies, because of the vacuum they threaten to leave. The implementation of both was postponed yesterday "for a few days" in response to pressure from these friends and allies. Yet in neither case is it at all obvious that the problems will be solved any more easily during the period of postponement than they would be once the decisions have taken effect.

The two crises are not of the same order, however. Israel's internal crisis is a "normal" crisis, of the sort that might attend a change of leadership in any country. One man has dominated the political scene for six years. Another will somehow be found, or, at most, the opposition may come to power. Decisions will be taken, if not always the right ones, and in any event the state will carry on.

No such luxury for Lebanon, whose very existence is increasingly in question - a question of which what Israel does or does not do in the Chouf is only one small part. And the existence or non-existence of the Lebanese state, though it most immediately concerns the Lebanese themselves, has become a matter of considerable concern to many others. Even we in Britain are involved in it, as the shots fired at our soldiers in Beirut yesterday painfully remind us. This time they escaped unhurt, luckier than their French and Ameri-

can colleagues. But it would be wrong to assume that their lives are not in danger. The way things are going in Lebanon now, there will be a next time, and a time after that.

Not that anyone supposed, when the decision was taken to contribute ninety-seven Dragoon Guards to the multinational force in Lebanon, that they were not going to be in any danger. If the moment comes when the multinational force is in no danger, that may well be the moment when it can and should be brought home.

Short of that, what should determine the maintenance or removal of the multinational force is not the degree of danger it is in but whether it is achieving the objects for which it was sent there. These objects were essentially two: to assist in the restoration of the authority of the Lebanese state throughout Lebanese territory, and to ensure the safety of civilians while that was being done.

The hope then was that successive infringements of Lebanese sovereignty by foreign forces (Palestinian, Syrian, Israeli - each of them initially welcomed as allies by one or more Lebanese parties) had at last brought about both a Lebanese national consensus and the opportunity to put it into effect. There have been three nation-builders of Lebanon," as one European observer put it, "and their names are Arafat, Assad and Sharon."

The bulk of the Palestinian forces had gone. The Lebanese Christians were as anxious to see their Israeli "liberators" go home as were the Lebanese Muslims to be rid of their Syrian "protectors", and Syria and Israel were both thought to be willing to go provided the other went too. Even Bashir Gemayel, formerly an extreme partisan leader, had been close, by the time of his death, to acceptance as a focus of

national unity. His brother Amin, always the moderate within the Phalangist leadership, seemed even better equipped for that role. With help from his Western friends, it seemed, he had a good chance of success.

Alas, those hopes seem vain now. They have been thwarted in part by Syria's refusal to withdraw but also, crucially, by the fact that there are still significant Lebanese forces willing to throw in their lot with Syria rather than with the Lebanese state in its present form.

Those forces do not hail only from the part of the country occupied by Syria, where they would have little choice, but from the Israeli-occupied south and from the crumbling shantytowns of southern Beirut where, unfortunately, the imposition of Lebanese government authority has not brought respect for the institutions behind it. Rather the

privatisation of state assets

Such political questions as our right to use the media of communication as we think fit and the state's freedom to tax us are inherent in the fact that certain industries are nationalised or run by the Government. By privatising them, the Government may shift the balance of influence away from itself towards the citizens. To that extent, privatisation is a political as well as an economic and financial act.

Such political considerations need to be taken into account, particularly when looking at proposals for a regulated rather than a nationalised industry. The citizen may think that he or she will enjoy an increase in influence or power over the provision of goods and services from such an industry, or anything else it affects. One set of masters will

singingly have exchanged for another enlarged one.

The probability that the new set

will have different views, to an extent, on how the industry should operate, from the old is not enough in political terms to justify reorganising the industry. Democratic

theorists of various persuasions

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Such constraints might hamper

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industry in question. Such pessimism seems premature, however,

especially when set against the

importance of such industries in our

political and economic life.

Much work remains to be done

before answers to the questions I

have raised, and others on similar lines, can be provided in the case of particular industries. But it does seem to me that any account of privatisation that concentrates on the economic dimensions at the risk of telling half the story. The history of nationalised industry is a comment on the consequences of such an approach.

Yours sincerely,

CRAIG R. PICKERING,

Institute of Public Sector

Management,

London Business School,

Sussex Place,

Regent's Park, NW1.

August 26.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Political implications of going private

From Dr Craig R. Pickering

Sir, Your leading articles of August 17 and 22, and other recent articles in your newspaper, air the major economic implications of privatisation. But they do not bring out as fully as they might the political implications of that policy.

It is right to mention, as these articles do, the effect on the relations between senior managers of privatised industries and ministers. But there are other political points to be made. For privatisation and other methods of reorganising the public sector can be seen as a way of redistributing power and influence from the state to citizens.

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right to use the media of communication as we think fit and the state's freedom to tax us are inherent in the fact that certain industries are nationalised or run by the Government itself. By privatising them, the Government may shift the balance of influence away from itself towards the citizens. To that extent, privatisation is a political as well as an economic and financial act.

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August 26.

Inferno in a green and pleasant land

From Mr James Mitchell

Sir, The landscape stretching northwards up the Avon valley to Marlborough, westwards over Stonehenge and southwards to Salisbury from Beacon Hill above Amesbury, is one of England's most enchanting summer views.

Returning home from holiday along the A303 last Friday afternoon that magic was dispelled by a vision of desolation.

Lowering behind a thunderbank of cloud a blood-red sun filtered down over Stonehenge as one imagined a spent nuclear fireball in the aftermath of a holocaust. Under the cloudy field after field in the landscape was blackened or was still blazing and belching black smoke all across the bowl of this most Arcadian of English valleys. Hardly a hedge or a tree, it seemed, could have survived the wrath of the flames in that inferno without singeing, scorching or burning - and many haven't.

And the wildlife. Not a bird was singing, not a butterfly was about when I reached home through the smog. How many creatures had died I wonder, in the fields that day?

No fisherman could fish on the river on Friday evening. The walkers in the valley could not walk with any pleasure. Visitors to England's most famous monument wasted their journeys.

Today the fires started again.

Everyone admires our farmers for having achieved so much in worthwhile activities, the resources of land and machinery would dilapidate, human resources would add to the potential pool of labour, while capital would be swallowed up in Government expenditure.

However, in a thriving economy, with a shortage of resources (land, labour and capital), the transfer of state assets to private hands would release resources to enterprise activities.

Therefore, in the present economic circumstances the social, political and economic costs of privatisation need to be weighed

carefully.

An imprudent sale of state assets may further depress an economy if a large proportion of resources are excess to requirements. One must privatise, only on prosperous days.

Yours faithfully,

J. E. B. WELLS,

Bracken spraying

of the countryside - just as, in the end, industrialists had to be obliged by law to desist from poisoning our cities.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES MITCHELL,

Tesse,

Wiltshire-cum-Lake,

Wiltshire.

August 29.

Bracken spraying

From Mr J. E. B. Wells

Sir, May I make one or two comments on Lady Sayer's rather emotively worded letter of August 25, with references to "toxic spraying", calling to mind the defoliation programme in Vietnam, and to the public being "chased off" Hayne Down.

Firstly, the land she writes about is not open common but is privately owned and wholly enclosed by stone walls though it is subject to common grazing rights and it is traversed by a road and a bridleway, with gates at each end.

Principally, though, does Lady Sayer not realise that spreading bracken is the main enemy of heather, the loss of which the amenity societies are so rightly concerned about, together with bilberries and other interesting species? Bracken spraying will not destroy these because they cannot co-exist with bracken.

Subsequent liming to improve the herbage and inhibit the recurrence of bracken, I agree, will not encourage heather, which we should all like to see more of because of its value as winter grazing, but it is better to have moorland grasses than high, tick-infested bracken, both for farmers and for walkers and picnickers.

The spray material has been drunk with no ill effects and I am told that a goldfish has been kept in the solution that is usually applied.

Finally, though, while public access is tolerated all over Dartmoor it is taking this de facto right too far to seek to use it to curtail normal farming operations on enclosed land.

Yours faithfully,

J. E. B. WELLS,

Bracken, Gidleigh,

Chagford, Devon.

August 26.

merger, all except five have transferred to the SSVC.

I have seen for myself at the overseas stations that we continue to provide a service greatly valued by our servicemen and their commanders. The relationships between the broadcasters, the MOD and the commands through the chain of the council, of which the Adjutant General is president, the board of management and advisory committees, supported by professional audience research, are working very satisfactorily.

As chairman of the SSVC I was proud to become associated with the broadcasters. The morale of the staff at the broadcasting stations is uniformly high; they know that they are doing a very worthwhile and forward-looking organisation.

Yours faithfully,

GORDON PIRIE, Chairman,

The Services Sound and Vision

Corporation,

Chalfont, Gerrards Cross,

Buckinghamshire.

August 11.

Service broadcasts

From Captain G. H. Prie (retired)

Sir, The members of the Broadcasting Division of the Services Sound and Vision Corporation (the BFBS) and the servicemen they entertain will be hard put to recognise the present state of the BFBS from the letter of their former director, Mr Ian Woolf, published in your issue of August 11.

Mr Blaker, the former Minister (Armed Forces) announced to the House of Commons on March 26 last year that the SSVC, formed by the merger of the BFBS and the Services Kinema Corporation, would continue to provide, at no extra cost, the high standard of service then provided.

The SSVC has been in existence for just over a year; it has been a period of energetic and encouraging activity and I am confident that the Government's expectations will be fulfilled. Of the 66 established staff of the BFBS with more than two years to serve before normal retirement, at the time of the

merger, one had been

With one short break, it has had Labour administrations for fifty years. Councils of relief, projects, rate grants, industrial grants, and almost every conceivable subsidy have been poured into it. The results cannot be presented as anything other than a complete and unmeasurable condemnation of socialist administration and Mr Kaufman's policy of siphoning off people's money at other people's problems.

Enterprise has been stifled by ludicrous rate levels; one business there is paying only fractionally less in rates than a private sit at Oxford Circus would cost it and the council wonders why unemployment is over 20 per cent. The massive rates have driven



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE

August 30: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present this evening at a Gala Performance given by New York City Ballet at Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland and Mrs Michael Wigley were in attendance.

Princess Anne will visit Northampton on November 3. Princess Anne, president of the Save the Children Fund, will be present at a luncheon given by the Road Haulage Association at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, on November 4.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Alan Hooper, Director of the Royal Academy of Dancing, will be held at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, on Tuesday, September 6, 1983, at noon. Tickets are not required.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G. A. Blett and Miss P. M. Savage

The engagement is announced between Godfrey, elder son of Mr and Mrs Cyril Blett, of West Chiltington, West Sussex, and Patricia, daughter of the late Mr F. Savage and Mrs L. T. Savage, of Blackburn, Lancashire. The marriage will take place in Hong Kong later in the year.

Mr N. E. Braithwaite and Miss C. J. Essenhugh

The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Mr Douglas Braithwaite, of Haughton Castle, Hunsbury, Northumberland, and the late Mrs Braithwaite, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Essenhugh, of Brunton House, Wall, Northumberland.

Mr J. W. Furness and Miss G. P. Booth

The engagement is announced between John Wilson, son of Mr and Mrs Frank Furness, Kirby Knowle, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, and Grania Patricia, eldest daughter of Mr John Booth, Darver Castle, Dundalk, co Louth, and of Mrs Thomas Long, Martinstown House, The Curragh, co Kildare.

Marriage

Mr S. D. Jackson and Miss V. Mackworth-Praed

The marriage took place on August 20, 1983, at St Michael's Church, Micklesham, of Mr Saul Dominic Jackson and Miss Vanessa Mackworth-Praed.

Archaeology

Adjusting dates of early metal working

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

Recent work in Vietnam and Thailand suggests that there was, after all, no precociously early development of metal-working in the region. Excavations in the 1960s and 1970s at two sites in northern Thailand had suggested that bronze metallurgy had begun soon after 3000 BC and iron working between 1600 and 1000 BC, in each case a thousand years earlier than the same processes in metropolitan China to the north.

While the two sites, Non Nok Tha and Ban Chiang, were the only ones in South-East Asia with radiocarbon dates for this period, there seemed on reason to deny the emergence of a new technology at a surprisingly early date in the region, although the social matrix within which it seemed to have occurred, the simple farming village, was unexpected.

New radiocarbon dates from several other sites in the region indicate that South-East Asia in fact acquired metal-working technology after it had already developed in China, although the early dates for bronze smelting there, around 2700 BC in the western province of Gansu, confirm that independent discovery of metallurgy did occur in eastern Asia as well as in the Near East and in Europe.

Excavations at Ban Nadi, near Ban Chiang in the Korat Plateau area of northern Thailand, have yielded radiocarbon dates that put the initial occupation between 1500 and 1000 BC, with the use of iron appearing between 400 and 100 BC.

At Ban Chiang Hian, a large-scale settlement in the Chai Valley, bronze is present before 1000 BC and iron appears between 600 and 300 BC. At a third site, Non Chai, the much later initial occupation has iron working between 300 BC and AD 200.

The pottery from Non Chai matches that from the later levels at Ban Nadi, which in its lower levels has clear links with Ban Chiang. Thus, the very early dates from Ban Chiang have been brought forward in time by a millennium or so.

Science report

Otters return to an English river

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A harness carrying a radio transmitter worn by a male otter, one of three animals released at a secret location in East Anglia in July, has been recovered according to plan by scientists of the Otter Trust and the Nature Conservancy Council.

For the past seven weeks the transmitter has enabled the movements of the otters to be monitored night and day. All three animals have been seen from time to time; the other two are female.

They were reared together, and between them they have established a territory of more than six miles of river adjacent to the pen where they were released, and many miles more.

The purpose of monitoring the otters was to establish what they needed to make a suitable habitat. Now that has been determined, three more young otters will be introduced into the

wild within the next few weeks with the purpose of creating, eventually, a viable breeding community.

Research into the behaviour of the otter, from which a scientifically-based effort for conserving the species could be pursued, began more than ten years ago. But the decline of the animal began in the middle of the 1950s, and in many areas it has not been seen since. The disappearance coincided with the use of hazardous pesticides, and particularly dieldrin, which have been abandoned.

The situation in England is much more serious than other parts of Britain. Dr Tony Mitchell-Jones, of the Nature Conservancy Council, said yesterday there was no reliable figures for the numbers in England, but some specialists in population biology believed there were too few left to ensure survival.

Television's religious enlightenment

To understand the significance of the fuss concerning religious television broadcasting, the record needs setting straight. Only then is it possible to distinguish between the apparent issue of demotion and the real one of public discourse.

For the record then, the Central Religious Advisory Committee (CRAC), which serves the BBC and IBA, under its then chairman Dr Runcie in 1975 wrote evidence for the Annan Commission. Recognizing that the longstanding religious "closed period" between 6.15pm and 7.25am was an obvious target for any reformist commission on broadcasting, CRAC advocated some change. This would leave BBC1's and ITV's popular religious music programmes back-to-back from 6.40pm to 7.15am, but allow the serious material to "float free".

So, leaving aside the handling of the matter, the early afternoon slot is not in itself derogatory, and at least ITV's regular religious output is no longer uncomfortably

nourished desire to see serious religious programmes out in the open; hence the new 2pm slot.

Now can *The Times* fairly call the ITV kudos black. While readers cannot doubt the serious attention this newspaper gives to religious matters, it is no accident that this column, and Clifford Longley's on Mondays, are "locked away" in the shelter of the Court Page. Religion can find its way on to the main news pages, and even, as, for instance, during the Pope's visit last year, keep hitting the front page. Precisely this is the true of ITV. So, leaving aside the handling of the matter, the early afternoon slot is not in itself derogatory, and at least ITV's regular religious output is no longer uncomfortably

support, and its offshoot Lella Productions. He saw the opportunity that the coming of Channel 4 signalled, and was keen to provide a strand of good, clean evangelical material of a sort unfamiliar to British viewers. A similarly motivated group was at the heart of one of the consortia that made an impressive but unsuccessful bid for one of the current ITV franchises.

More modestly, a group led by

a north-country Christian solicitor, with financial support from Praise the Lord Inc, have made pilot that shows which they have sought in vain to have broadcast.

An American evangelist, having pitched tent in Scotland, wrote to the IBA to find how to buy time on its stations. A patient reply explained that this was against the law: "there shall be no advertising by or on behalf of any political or religious body, or for political or religious ends," the Act governing Independent Broadcasting has been saying since 1954. The evangelist's response was dinned in communally

radio vitriol.

It is tempting to ignore these developments, and assume that religious broadcasting in the United Kingdom can go on indefinitely under the present benevolent arrangements, as it does, for instance, so impressively on BBC network radio.

Times change, however, and television channels multiply. Though the Hunt committee last October recommended against allowing religious ownership of cable stations, under the modest

controls to be expected of coming legislation for cable, the doors seem open to material of this sort.

Will Graham's Law then begin to operate, with bad money driving out good? It is not impossible to imagine ITV companies beginning to think that surely there is no need for them to keep showing religious programmes when there is all this material on cable with its obvious appeal to a religiously-minded minority of viewers. In much the same way, they might be tempted to leave other minority interests, from angling to zoology, for distribution to aficionados through the cable services.

Religion is not a hobby for the pious. Like politics, with which our legislation wisely couples it, religion is of common concern, and it is important that it keeps its voice in the public discourse of national broadcasting.

Though it is tempting, therefore for CRAC to see the moving of *Credo* from 6pm to 2pm as a flouting of the committee's advice, its energies may be more creatively spent in ensuring that the programmes – on Channel Four as well as ITV, and on BBC1 – continue as best they can to "inform, educate and entertain" the public at large. Canada's similar formula puns "enlighten" for "educate", and for CRAC and the two broadcasting authorities which it serves, enlightenment rather than the obscurantism that threatens, could be a valuable watchword.

OBITUARY

SIR DENNIS PROCTOR

Distinguished civil servant

Sir Dennis Proctor, KCB, who died yesterday at the age of 77, was a distinguished civil servant whose career was in two parts: the substantial part of his working life was spent at the Treasury where he served from 1930 to 1950; then, after intercalating three years in business, he returned to the civil service where he served successively as Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation from 1953 to 1958 and Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Power from 1958 to 1965.

In 1952, while he was out of the Civil Service, he was made a Trustee of the Tate Gallery. From 1953 to 1959 he was Chairman of the Trustees. These were stormy days at the Tate: there had been considerable strife under his predecessor's chairmanship, and it fell to Proctor to take the lead in restoring calm. In this he and his colleagues were successful, but only after much pain and trouble, from which he suffered greatly, more than his friends thought necessary; but his was a placid nature and the affair remained a sore memory for the rest of his life.

He also served for some time on committees relating to the arts set up by the Gulbenkian Foundation, and on the governing committee of the Council of the Arts.

After his retirement he found much to occupy his ever-active mind. His second home was in the Vaucluse. His interests in the region, together with a classical education which he had never neglected, led to the appearance in 1971 of *Hamblin's March in History*, an able and original book on Hamblin's route through Gaul and over the Alps.

In 1980 he published *The Experience of Thucydides*, the fruit of a life-long study of the historian. From Thucydides he turned to two other interests, on both of which he hoped to publish something astronomy, where he believed that there was room for a book on the Galaxy by a non-astronomer for his fellow; and *Mme de Gouray*, the "file par alliance" of Montaigne, and the fate of her library. But he did not live to finish either project.

A labour of love which did see the light of day, however, was his editing of *The Autobiography of G. Lowes Dickinson*, the Cambridge don whom he had known in his own days at King's. This task had originally been left by Lowes Dickinson to E. M. Forster, but the novelist who had already produced his own biography of the subject passed it on to Proctor who published it with a sensitive introduction in 1973.

Proctor was appointed CB in 1946 and created KCB in 1959. He was twice married, first in 1926 to Dorothy Vanda who died in 1951, and secondly in 1953 to Barbara, daughter of General Sir Ronald Adam, Bt. They had two sons and one daughter.

MR L. R. MISSEN

Mr Leslie Robert Missen, CMG, MC, who died on August 27 at the age of 86 had a career in local government education, during which time he was also education adviser to various government ministries.

He had served in the First World War with the 7th Battalion N. Staffs Regiment in Mesopotamia, Persia and the Caucasus, gaining his MC, afterwards going into local government education where he had senior posts at Leeds, Middlesbrough and Wigan before joining East Suffolk County Council where he was Chief Education Officer from 1936 to 1962.

During this time he was a member of the Ministry of Agriculture from 1944 to 1954; to the Ministry of Education from 1950 to 1957; to the Colonial Secretary from 1952 to 1955; and to the Royal Navy from 1958 to 1964. He was also a member of the Local Government

Commission for England from 1962 to 1966, and President of the Association of Education Officers in 1952.

His publications included a war history of his battalion and he had contributed to *Purnell's History of the First World War*. He was appointed CMG in 1956.

Sir John Arthur Edwards, CBE, who died on August 25 at the age of 82, was president of the London Rent Assessment Panel from 1968 to 1973, having been vice-president from 1965 to 1968.

Lady Baker, who died on August 28 after a long illness, was the wife of the Rt Hon Sir George Baker, OBE, former President of the Family Division of the High Court of Justice. She was also a member of the Local Government

Commission for England from 1962 to 1966, and President of the Association of Education Officers in 1952.

His publications included a war history of his battalion and he had contributed to *Purnell's History of the First World War*. He was appointed CMG in 1956.

Sir Robert Barton-Chadwick, Bt, died on August 28 at the age of 72.

Latest wills

Una Maud Munday, of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, left estate valued at £492,954 net. After bequests totalling £27,000, she left the residue equally between the Church Army, St Luke's Nursing Home for the Clergy, London, Home for the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Salvation Army, Dr Barnardo's, and the David Livingstone Missionary Society, Glasgow.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Bevan, Mr Frederick Eardley Yerburgh, of Wateringbury, Kent, company director £355,556

Crangolis, Mr Hugh Woodveid, of Conwy, Gwynedd, stockbroker, £535,764

Evett, Mr Roland James, of Cambridge, £274,112

Green, Mr Stephen Bernard Rylands, of Lyddington, Leicestershire, £201,368

Grewes, Mrs Frances Grace, of Nether Wallop, Hampshire, £216,998

Heward, Mrs Janet Rymer, of Winchester, Hampshire, £240,285

Lancis, Major-General Sir John Edmunds, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, Colonel, Seaforth Highlanders 1947-57, £67,677

Madd, Mr Derek Percival of Guisborough, Cleveland, £296,435

Preddy, Mr George Martin, of Wheldrake, York, £208,639

Smith, Mrs Anna of Colton, co Louth, estate in England, Wales and the Republic of Ireland, £277,745

Walls, Mr Michael of Chinnor, co Oxfordshire, £249,112

Waring, Mrs Kathleen, of Caversham, Berkshire, £318,576

Young, Mrs Kathleen, of Caversham, Berkshire, £201,595

Council overspending: 2

Southwark rejects charges of extravagance

At the top of any list of "overspending" councils come the inner London boroughs controlled by the Labour Party. Such boroughs as Islington and Camden regularly make the news. Less ostentatious but no less of a candidate for the government's new rate-capping procedures is Southwark, where David Walker asked councillors and officials to explain the need for what they concede are notably high levels of municipal spending.

Mr Davis is suspicious of press bias. "There is so little understanding of what is involved in local government operations; so much use of simplistic formulae."

Maybe, but those formulae are being used by the Government to pique Southwark. This year the borough is spending 34 per cent above the Government's assessment of what it needs to spend and nearly 17 per cent above the public spending control total allocated to it by the Department of the Environment. Worse, Southwark's portion of the local rates bill increased by 60 per cent in April.

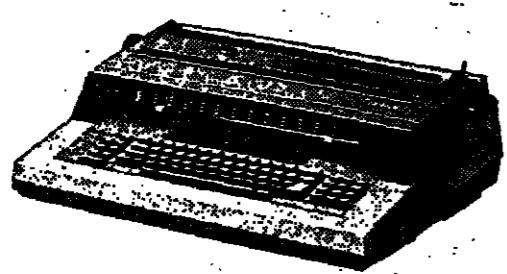
Compared with other inner London boroughs on the Chartered Institute of Finance and Accountancy's figures, Southwark is not an egregious high spender but the expense of its provision mounts up. In 1983-84, Southwark is spending £455 per head of population, a figure exceeded in inner London only by Camden.

"A strict head count in Peckham High Road, midway between gentrified Camberwell and proletarian Peckham Rye, but its occupants are definitely not of the same social class as Lambeth, Hackney and Islington, all candidates for rate-capping under the Government's proposed scheme."

Over the next few weeks the London Labour Party is going into intensive session to work out a strategy against rate-capping. Mr Davis mentioned a "strike" of capital if all authorities refused to spend the capital allocation given by the Government. The financial institutions would be hurt. But so, presumably, would the poor people of Southwark.

Tomorrow: Newcastle

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Victims of the world recession - 1: Andrew Cornelius examines the truck industry

Producers still search for turning point

Mr Les Wharton, the newly appointed managing director of Leyland Trucks, sent a shudder through Britain's troubled truck industry when he announced that the company "is literally fighting for survival".

Two years ago, when Britain's truck market collapsed by half, such remarks were almost commonplace. But 1983 was supposed to be the year when world truckmakers came back from recession.

Instead the world is set to produce fewer trucks than at any time in the past 40 years. Leyland Trucks, which still ranks among the top 20 producers, is expecting to make losses far bigger than last year's £53m.

Mr Wharton said that, in retrospect last year's radical survival plan, which involved cutting the workforce by one third to today's 9,700 employees, was "not radical enough".

Throughout the industry the story is much the same. Bedford Trucks, part of the mighty General Motors, is operating at 40 per cent capacity in Britain despite cutting its workforce by one third to 10,000 people.

The Foden truck business in Sandbach, Cheshire, was saved from collapse when Paccar, an American manufacturer of Kenworth trucks, took control. But Foden, and its near neighbour ERF, have survived the recession only by desperately cutting capacity. Seddon Atkinson is also up for sale as part of the attempt by International Harvester, its American parent, to pull out of the fiercely competitive European market.

Mr John Lawson, a truck industry expert at DRI Europe, says:

the London-based forecasting and consultancy company says that only five European manufacturers can claim to be making profits from their truck operations: Volvo and Scania, in Sweden, Daimler-Benz in West Germany, IVECO in Italy and ERF, which had just returned to profit after three years of losses.

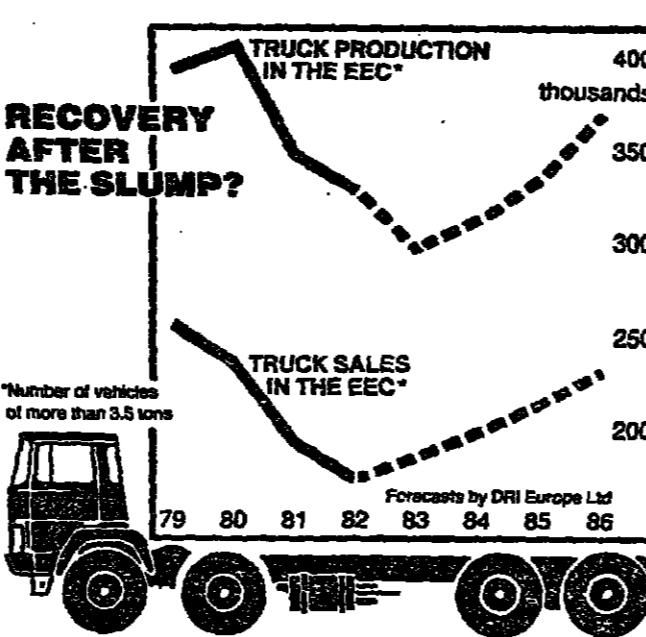
Mr Lawson forecasts that four of Europe's 16 independent truckmakers are likely to disappear before world truck markets improve. According to DRI's latest forecasts, it could be 1986 before demand returns to the high levels of the 1970's.

Forecasters at the Bedford truck company hope for a return to the sales level of the late 1970s by 1987, when there will be looking for a world market of 11 million vehicles outside America.

The problem for all the world's truck manufacturers is going to be how to survive in the meantime. "If too much capacity continues to chase too few orders then you can guarantee that some companies will go broke," says Mr J. T. Battenberg, the new head of the Bedford business.

Competition in the industry has intensified in the past six months, mainly because the Swedes and West German manufacturers which successfully rode the post-1979 recession are now running into trouble.

Unlike British manufacturers, which were caught by a combination of falling home demand caused by recession and the impossible task of making inroads into export markets because of a strong pound, Volvo, Scania and Daimler-Benz and the Bavarian-based MAN were able to counter falling home demand by sales abroad.



Production figures for five major producer countries: France, West Germany, Italy, UK and Netherlands. Sales figures for these countries plus Belgium.

The strong pound, bolstered by North Sea oil revenues, put British exporters at a 30 per cent price disadvantage compared with their European rivals in the dismal sales of 1980-82.

Strong markets like the Middle East and Africa disappeared as the rest of Europe used its price advantage to boost sales.

The West German manufacturers did particularly well from sales to Iraq, which were helped by the closure of the Gulf port in 1981, making it necessary to transport supplies overland.

Demand created by the Iran/Iraq war also helped to swell sales at a time when other world markets were collapsing.

Result, in France, missed this boom, like British companies, because it was boycotted by the Arab League countries.

The sales climate was worsened by the gradual emergence of Japanese truck companies, like Hino, in world markets. Much of the competition from Japan came in the light van sector, but increasingly Japanese companies

World's top twenty commercial vehicle producers (1981)

1 Japan	4,206,000
2 USA	1,701,000
3 USSR	874,000
4 Canada	520,000
5 France	408,000
6 Brazil	374,000
7 West Germany	319,000
8 UK	230,000
9 Spain	132,000
10 Poland	99,000
12 India	90,000
13 South Korea	64,000
14 Sweden	55,000
15 Czechoslovakia	46,000
16 Belgium	41,000
17 Australia	40,000
18 Argentina	33,000
19 Yugoslavia	27,000
20 Netherlands	12,000

*All commercial vehicle units including light vans but not three-wheelers

demanded this year, but has downgraded its forecasts. He now expects sales for heavy trucks (over 3.5 tonnes) of about 48,000, up slightly from last year's 45,000.

Truckmakers have responded to weak demand by joining forces. General Motors has announced a new worldwide truck and bus group which will produce products to be sold anywhere in the world.

An indication of this strategy in Europe is the decision to establish Bedford as a British division of the new global organization.

A £70m investment is the first sign of the strategy beginning to take shape in Britain. Further investments in heavy trucks will follow.

Mr Battenberg says: "We are now dedicated truckers. We no longer have to compete for resources locally with the Vauxhall car operation."

Bedford this year considered taking over the Seddon business to bolster its share of the heavy end of the market. It is rumoured that Bedford has turned its attention to MAN in West Germany, which is also thought to carry an unofficial "for sale" tag.

Seddon now stands a good chance of linking with Pegaso, the Spanish truck combine, while ERF is moving closer to Hino in Japan.

The European truckmakers, ever mindful of the potential offered by new markets, are looking increasingly towards America, which has traditionally been closed to outsiders because of the different truck styles demanded there.

Renault now has a 45 per cent stake in Mack, the American truck company, while Daimler-Benz and Volvo are trying to boost export sales to America. Component manufacture links are already firmly established. IVECO, based in Italy, has struck deals with Rockwell and Eaton axles, while Leyland is collaborating with Cummins to produce a new truck diesel engine.

And despite the dismal short-term prospects for sales the leading companies in the industry are determined to continue the battle for survival until the market returns.

At Leyland Mr Wharton says: "I did not move to Leyland Trucks to close it down. I am committed to striving to create a viable long-term business."

The only sizable deals in the traditional overseas markets are huge one-off fleet purchases which are agreed at suicidal prices for manufacturers.

The same pricing system is rife in Britain, now a target for European companies which are overloaded with capacity. Thousands of trucks are stockpiled in Britain with buyers refusing to conclude any deal unless a substantial discount is offered.

DRI Europe was looking for a strong resurgence of British truck company so unprofitable.

APPOINTMENTS

Cabinet Office policy chief rejoins Morgan Grenfell

Morgan Grenfell: Mr John Sparrow, who was director of the Central Policy Review Staff in the Cabinet Office, has rejoined the board of Morgan Grenfell Holdings, and that of Morgan Grenfell & Co.

Gibbs Sage: Mr Geoffrey G. Ludbrook will join the North American division tomorrow as a divisional director.

Electro Holdings: Mr K. Wagner has been appointed to the board.

Eageland Industries: Mr Charles Buckridge, managing director, retires at the end of 1984, and has been appointed deputy chairman of tomorrow. Mr Alastair Alexander, a deputy managing director, has been made managing director.

Expert Guarantees Advisory Council: Mr W. G. Barrett, chairman and chief executive, Midland Bank Group International Trade Services, and Mr W. Hobbin, managing director, Taylor Woodrow International, have become members of the council. Mr R. J. Dent becomes deputy chairman of the council in succession to Mr A. W. Higgins who retired last month. Mr Dent is managing director of Baring Brothers & Co and joined the council in August 1980.

The First National Bank of Boston: Mr Martin Colyer has been appointed assistant vice-president in London and has been named European manager of lease administration of the leasing division.

Rolls-Royce Motors (Motor Car Group): Mr John P. Stephen has been appointed director of product planning.

Woolwich Equitable Building Society: Miss Patricia Mann, vice-president of J. Walter Thompson International and head of external affairs, J. Walter Thompson Group (UK) has been made a director.

Sales and Marketing Appointments

are featured every

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TABLE TENNIS

Prean bicycle glue makes Waldner's waltz come unstuck

From Richard Eaton, Barbados

Carl Prean, the schoolboy from the Isle of Wight, has done it again. His opening win yesterday in the World Cup, sponsored by Three Fives, i Bridgeport, Barbados, was the best of his career - 14-21, 29-27, 21-19, 14-12, 21-12. Prean, of Sweden, Prean saved four match points in a noisy and dramatic

encounter with Zoran Kulinic, the Yugoslav world No 10, who won 21-15, 22-20 against the favourite, Carl.

Their encounter, Albert Shipley, of England, warned both players for four serves - Carl for twiddling the bat under the table and Kulinic for masking the bat with his body - but declined to award faults. "It's too soon to do so yet," Shipley said. "I'll award faults later."

Instead, Kulinic requested the players to obey the new rules. Kulinic, who followed up his service with some forceful forehand attacks, appeared to obey the request less completely than his opponent.

Later, Dragutin Surbek, now aged 37, beat the other Chinese, Jing Jiang, 21-18, 19-21, 21-12, which meant that the two Yugoslavs who won the world doubles title had both been beaten in the singles here. But the Chinese have lost group matches in the World Cup before and still qualified, and they may do so again.

RECORD SERIES: 1. Argentina (Swed) vs Prean (Isle of Wight) 22-22, 21-16; 2. Prean (Isle of Wight) vs Kulinic (Yugoslav) 14-21, 29-27, 21-19, 14-12, 21-12; 3. Kulinic (Yugoslav) vs Shipley (England) 21-15, 19-21, 21-12; 4. Shipley (England) vs Kulinic (Yugoslav) 21-18, 22-20; 5. Kulinic (Yugoslav) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 6. Surbek (Croatia) vs Shipley (England) 21-18, 22-20; 7. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 8. Surbek (Croatia) vs Kulinic (Yugoslav) 21-15, 21-12; 9. Kulinic (Yugoslav) vs Shipley (England) 21-15, 21-12; 10. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 11. Surbek (Croatia) vs Shipley (England) 21-15, 21-12; 12. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 13. Surbek (Croatia) vs Shipley (England) 21-15, 21-12; 14. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 15. Surbek (Croatia) vs Shipley (England) 21-15, 21-12; 16. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 17. Surbek (Croatia) vs Shipley (England) 21-15, 21-12; 18. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 19. Surbek (Croatia) vs Shipley (England) 21-15, 21-12; 20. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 21. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 22. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 23. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 24. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 25. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 26. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 27. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 28. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 29. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 30. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 31. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 32. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 33. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 34. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 35. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 36. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 37. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 38. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 39. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 40. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 41. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 42. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 43. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 44. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 45. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 46. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 47. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 48. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 49. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 50. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 51. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 52. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 53. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 54. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 55. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 56. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 57. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 58. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 59. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 60. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 61. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 62. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 63. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 64. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 65. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 66. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 67. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 68. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 69. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 70. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 71. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 72. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 73. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 74. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 75. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 76. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 77. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 78. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 79. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 80. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 81. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croatia) 21-15, 21-12; 82. Shipley (England) vs Surbek (Croat

Willis stays on as May takes staunch stand over loyalty

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

Bob Willis will be continuing as England's captain on the winter tour of Fiji, New Zealand and Pakistan, beginning just after Christmas. This was announced from Lord's yesterday, belatedly enough to suggest that the selectors had, not unapprisedly, been wrestling with second thoughts.

Their minds made up, the chairman, Peter May, had a meeting with Willis. When this was arranged for yesterday, with a decision seemingly overdue, Willis may himself have thought that he was to be asked to go on the tour, but to make him Gower's No 2. This would have maintained their partnership.

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been wrestling with second thoughts.

Against that if Middlesex's own

achievement was anything to go by,

Sussex had not a hope. In fact,

Embury, the captain of an amateur

team, had a team of amateur

players, and a team of amateur

Yachting: sport as it once was in the America's Cup

Victory turns a Nelsonian eye to defeat in contesting every wave

From David Miller, Newport, Rhode Island

There are only five factors which could give Victory '83 any real hope of defeating Australia II in the America's Cup final eliminations series, and none of them offer much scope for optimism. This was reaffirmed when the Royal Perth challenger out-sailed her British rival on Monday, only for the race ultimately to be abandoned.

Peter de Savary conceded that it is the misfortune of his planned £5m campaign to have come up against a brilliant, innovative boat, even though publicly he is still as determined, as his crew were when six minutes down, to fight the Australians through every wave and windshift.

Yet these are only long-shot possibilities which might result in obtaining even one win in the best-of-seven series to decide who challenges America for the cup:

1. An increased aggressive attitude in the 10-minute starting manoeuvres before the gun which would force the Australian helmsman John Bertrand to overreact and get disqualified on protest. 2. A large element of luck on a major, favourable windshift. 3. An error such as the Australians made on the second downwind leg on Monday which allowed Rodney Patterson's shrewd judgement on the helm to pick up almost four minutes. 4. A superior start in which Victory '83 either substantially ahead or Australia II crosses the line early and is recalled. 5. Or the heavier weather above 14 knots with lumpy seas in which the Ian Howlett design is thought to close the distance the slower the race.

The plain truth, emphasized in Monday's light to negligible airs which at times fainted away to three knots or less, is that Australia II is on average one and a half minutes faster on windward legs in 10-knot winds and half a minute to one minute slower downwind, which in conjunction with her one fifth of a length advantage on every tack is sufficient to guarantee victory if the start is level and Bertrand makes no mistakes. This advantage is magnified in time difference the slower the race.

Monday's race, abandoned after just over five hours, halfway down the final windward leg when it was obvious the 3 hours 15 minutes time limit would expire, lends substance to the accusation of Dennis Conner, helmsman of Liberty, that the Australians were "sandbagging", or going slow, in

the semi-final race won by Victory '83, when Bertrand failed to exploit his tacking advantage. In spite of strong denials, it suddenly makes sense that the Australians would do nothing in that "dead" race to jeopardize their crew.

The contradiction in de Savary's handling of the campaign could not have been more heavily and ironically underlined when he roared out for Monday's start in his 35-ton powerboat Lismore with Harry Cadmore and Bryan Willis sitting side by side on the deck of Willis's illusion.

Cadmore, visiting Newport in a hub between other commitments as possibly Britain's best helmsman, is the man who might have narrowed the gap with the Australians but left on mutual agreement several months ago when de Savary refused to compromise his squad system by making the Irishman overall skipper.

Three weeks ago de Savary also controversially dropped his other chief sailing theorist, Phil Crebbin, and it is significant that an American invited to coach the British crew on started to do so unless Crebbin was in the afterguard.

Willis, who runs a yachting school on the Isle of Wight and is the country's leading rule expert, has been retained by de Savary exclusively to advise on start manoeuvre and possible ways of putting pressure on the opposition which might have forced them into a critical error.

Barring accidents, the race was effectively over and Willis could put away his cassette recorder with a second-by-second commentary for later analysis and send the next five fruitless hours sunbathing.

The excitement when, after four hours, Patterson inexorably closed in on Bertrand's error downwind, Victory was called as between running and boxing. If you see the chance of a knockout blow, you deliver it.

Kidds conquer Old World with ease

By John Nicholls

North American crews again did well when the international 14-foot world championship got back on schedule with two races at Faversham Bay, Kent.

The third of the series, was won by the Canadian brothers, Jamie and Hugh Kidd. This was their second consecutive win.

Philip Morrison, a local sailor who designs boats and also makes the sails for them, was a popular runner-up. Morrison and his crew, Martin Goyle made spectacular

the mark, but I fear it was a vain flourish.

The camaraderie between the British and Australian syndicates is as congenial and welcome as the hostilities of the NYYC have been ugly and grueling. Three times during Monday's race de Savary and Bond nosed in towards each other's huge support craft, more expensive even than the racing boats they have built, to exchange greetings and jests.

"Excuse me while I go and see my boys catch up", de Savary shouts, ignoring the six-minute deficit with Nelsonian indifference. The contemporary Victory nearly does catch up. Whatever the outcome, Bond, de Savary and their squads have given the America's Cup a taste of sport it is once was.

● The two American syndicates are planning to test their own version of the winged keel fitted to Australia II, in an attempt to come up with a 12-metre to match the Australians in the two weeks that remain before the Cup races begin. Barry Pickthall writes.

Johan Valentijn, who designed Liberty, admitted that he had been researching the idea of winged keels throughout the campaign by the New York Yacht Club to have Australia II's winged keel design outlawed. The club withdrew their protest after Peter de Savary, head of Britain's Victory syndicate, revealed that the international Yacht Racing Union had given confidential approval for them a year ago.

Defender was transported to Covehaven at the weekend for wings to be added. Her designer, David Pedrick, drove up the coast to investigate, but was prevented from doing so by a close look.

● Victory '83's race against Australia II yesterday was called off because of lack of wind.

FOOTBALL

Toshack is defiant

Est Berlin (Renter) - Swanside, the City Cup holders, have a difficult task ahead if they are to overcome Magdeburg and reach the first round proper of the European Cup Winners' Cup tonight.

The East Germans, who held Swanside to a 1-1 draw in the preliminary round first-leg match in Wales last week, have made a good start to the new season and top the premier division after three games. They are the only unbeaten side in the division and won 5-0 against Union Berlin on Saturday. By contrast Swanside opened their new campaign with a 1-0 home defeat by Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday.

However, Swanside's manager John Toshack, who steered the club from the fourth division to the first in as many seasons before they were relegated in May, remains confident

his side can reach the first round. "We have not buried our hopes", he said. The Welshmen will have to contain the powerful Magdeburg forward Joachim Streich.

MAGDEBURG: D Heyne, D Stuhm, D Raupas, S Meier, G Gruber, A Witzel, J Pfeiffer, W Stachowiak, D Hesse, J Schmid, F Cebulla.

SWANSEA CITY: J Rimmer, D Lewis, G Starkey, N Stevenson, C Maruska, N Robinson, J Charles, R Kennedy, A Curtis, R Latchford.

● Phil Thompson, Liverpool's 29-year-old former captain, has rejected the chance of a move to Leicester City on loan. The England international, who has won seven championship medals, is currently out of the Liverpool side. Liverpool are unchanged for tonight's match at Norwich. Kennedy having recovered from a leg injury, Norwich hope to have Channon in their team.

Reluctant Deb undergoes a sea-change and melts the ice

The Cottrill duckling turns swan

There was a tap on the shoulder and a friendly hand advanced. It was one of those embarrassing occasions of a familiar face and an unfamiliar name, and defining instant recognition and it was not until the owner of the hand gestured towards the girl at his side that I identified him, and her. They were Debbie Cottrill and her father, the same Debbie Cottrill who won the British figure skating championship for the second time in 1981, and yet not the same Debbie Cottrill at nine.

Where she had been a shy and ill at ease in the company of a company not all that strange, she was now clearly relaxed and glowing with sun-tanned self-confidence, she was furthermore among a group of golf correspondents whom she had never met and would probably never meet again. This had all come in past few weeks her partner had chosen the same hotel as her sister's wedding, with Debbie as bridesmaid, as did her for its close proximity to the Belfry golf course.

It was a revelation to meet her again, partly because she had materialized in such an unexpected quarter, but mostly because she had undergone such a personality change since unexpectedly giving up an amateur skating career to turn professional. She had joined one of the Holiday on Ice companies and had flown off to Panama for an eight-month tour that took in also the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil.

She was not, she said, aware that her character was changing but when she returned home last month many people remarked on her composure. The Debbie Cottrill one knew up to the winter of 1981-2 had been hard to communicate with, her timidity had reduced her conversation, except among an intimate circle of friends, to monosyllabic replies, accompanied with nervous chuckles. One had approached her with some diffidence then. Now there is a warm welcome on her smiling face.

Debbie Cottrill won the British championship for the first time at 16 in 1978. There were then two setbacks before she regained the title in 1981, after securing fourth place in the world championships at Hartford, Connecticut. The same year, her expectations of another good year's progress were ruined by injury and surgery and after her tenth place in the world championship of 1982 at Copenhagen she decided that enough was more than enough.

She no longer enjoyed the drudgery, as it had become, of training all of which had to be learned to one poor performance when it mattered. She suffered four minutes of free skating agony at Copenhagen in March last year. "You practise all year just for one moment", she recalls wistfully, "and you can just blow it like that." Yet she confesses that she would not be the skater she is, in the position she is, without those long, cold hours of dedication from the age, in her case, of nine.

She knew that she would have to find a niche in skating because "whatever I've been away on holiday for four or five weeks I couldn't wait to get back to skating. I'd be lost without it". She was realistic enough to appreciate that she had not got the enough character to be a teacher and the period of show skating with its emphasis on self-projection, would repair that one gap in her credentials.

After two, perhaps three, years with Holiday on Ice, she feels she will have all the personality she needs for that role, old enough, too, to command respect, young enough for her prowess as a competitor still to be remembered.

Towards the end she was training in Lake Placid, New York State, with Emmerich Danzer, a former world champion, and it was he who guided her in the direction of Holiday on Ice, once he saw that her mind had like his, was made up. He would have liked her to give it one more year.

Venturing into the wide world on her two talented feet, she was anxious to start with, thinking "God, have I made the right decision". She knew only one member of the show's company when they assembled at Heathrow for the flight to Panama City, a fellow Solihull skater, John Stevenson, but by the time they arrived she was already one of the gang.

In due time she formed a warm friendship with Beatrice Anquetil, nice of a famous French cyclist, and that has helped in the final transition from duckling but never an ugly one to graceful swan.

During the tour she was usually billed as "the British star, or something like that", but the professional ice she had, at first, been nervous about things falling to the ground in the national consciousness. For their purposes she was a "European star", but she has a warm spot for Argentina.

"Buenos Aires is a beautiful European-type city", she says, "with a nice climate, at last when we were there, and nice people".

She has watched the last world championships on a video recording

and has her favourites. Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean are "just marvellous, getting better all the time when you think them to be". She has not had time to improve.

But "I have absolutely no regret", she says, and, seeing her lips smugged up in an armchair in the Cottrill's elegant family home at Balsall Common, she has a warm spot for Argentina.

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She has watched the last world championships on a video recording

PLACEPOT: 080.35

John Hennessy



No stalling: pursuit is headlong in the Steve Donoghue Handicap at Epsom (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Electric finish by Spark Chief

By John Karter

We read volumes - and quite rightly so - about the bravery or fear of our National Hunt jockeys who break limbs as regularly as you or I break bread as they go about their business of urging tired jumpers over a series of hair-raising obstacles. Consequently, the job of riding in a Flat race, which is often all over before you can say "Willie Carson", tends to get written off.

Not many Flat jockeys would agree with that, of course. And when the race concerned takes place at Epsom and they are perched precariously on top of half a ton of horse flesh careening at over 40 mph down the helter skelter five furlong track, which is easily the fastest in the world, they can rightly be called Spark Chief's apprentices.

The apprentices got their £10,000 and the master £10,000 to ride the post as Spark Chief, swooped on the Minnow and Trill in the final 100 yards. The time was an amazing 53.7 just a tenth of a second outside the world record and Carson said that they would have broken it had Spark Chief kept a straight line throughout the race.

The Vladivar Vodka Trophy was the Epsom five, which was the main race at the Surrey course yesterday. The old beat the fastest racing time set up by Raffington in 1970. So as Indigenous's time was recorded by hand and the horse apparently got a hand up to challenge in the Steve

budding Piggotts to cope with all aspects of riding and send them on their way to deal with even the demands of Epsom like the great man himself.

The sponsoring company offered £160,000 to the school if the winner of yesterday's race broke the world record of 53.60 seconds set up by Indigenous in 1960 and £10,000 if the time was below the standard for the course of 53.4.

The apprentices got their £10,000 and the master £10,000 to ride the post as Spark Chief, swooped on the Minnow and Trill in the final 100 yards. The time was an amazing 53.7 just a tenth of a second outside the world record and Carson said that they would have broken it had Spark Chief kept a straight line throughout the race.

It was a tiny masterpiece. Tyrone Williams, 16, who caught the eye most, however. His mount, Going Going, was rolling in badly towards the rails as he brought him up to challenge in the Steve

Donoghue apprentice handicap. Williams remained totally unfurled, straightened Going going up and drove the gelding stylishly home with hands and heels to win from Aberfield, ridden by the young star of the moment, Gay Kellaway.

Riders will have a much easier time of it today at York, where the course is as flat and true as any athletics track. Whether backs will be open to do easy, however, must be open to doubt because the attractive card looks extremely tricky.

The Strensall Stakes could be won by any one of half a dozen of the ten useful fillies taking part. A key advantage is that the course is as flat and true as today is concerned was the Oak Tree Stakes at Goldwell last year. The Frank Dux, F. Silverbird and Linda's Fantasy by a length and three lengths.

The second and third are one lb and two the better off, but against that Fenny Rough was having her first run of the season and is sure to improve.

Newton Abbot

2.15 DART CHASE (Handicap: 21,850; 2m 150yds (7 runners))

1. 5-12 Castle Glen, 11-11-10...M Marchand

2. 0-11 Zelina's Fancy, 5-11-14 M Hammond

3. 4-14 Chelsea Bar, 9-10-12 M Hartley

4. 5-0 Pegasus, 9-10-12 J Davies

5. 0-0 Pegasus, 9-10-12 J Davies

6. 0-0 Tivoli, 10-11-10 A Webber

7. 0-0 Zelina, 10-11-10 L Bloomfield

8. 0-0 Corby Glen, 11-12 Zelina's Fancy, 100-100

9. 0-0 Chelsea Bar, 8-9 North Yard

10. 0-0 Zelina, 11-12 Zelina's Fancy, 100-100

11. 0-0 Zelina, 11-12 Zelina's Fancy, 100-100

12. 0-0 Zelina, 11-12 Zelina's Fancy, 100-100

13. 0-0 Zelina, 11-12 Zelina's Fancy, 100-100

14. 0-0 Zelina, 11-12 Zelina's Fancy, 100-100

15. 0-0 Zelina, 11-12 Zelina's Fancy, 100-100

16. 0-0 Zelina, 11-12 Zelina's Fancy, 100-100

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23. 0-0 Zelina, 11-12 Zelina's Fancy, 100-100

24. 0-0 Zelina, 11-12 Zelina's Fancy, 100-100

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W.2 CLOSE TO HYDE PARK. Super 3 bed. Detached residence, 2 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 fireplaces, C.H. 120 years, £16,000. Tel: 01-738 11000.

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1 bed, 1 bath. 10th fl. 120 years, £14,000. Tel: 01-738 2383.

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Delightful 1 bedrm conversion from kitchen/living room. Kitchen/living room, 1 bed, 1 bath, 1 WC, 120 years, £14,000. Tel: 01-738 2383.

£3,000 offers invited

01-388 4151 weds and eves.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS
AND IN MEMORIAM - £3.25 a line
(minimum 3 lines)

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1234 ext 7714

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can not be accepted by
telephone.

GLORIOUS THINGS are spoken of
in the City of God. Psalm 87: 5.

BIRTHS

AUCHINLECK - On August 29,
1983, at B.H.M. Hospital, London,
Mary, wife of Robert Alexander,
a brother to son James Alexander,

BALFOUR - On August 28, 1983, to Sally
Mary, wife of David - a daughter

Deborah and Robert Balfour, and
Tina, a daughter.

COLVIN - On 28th August at St
Thomas' Hospital, London, David
and a son, Thomas, George

COLVIN - On August 30th, 1983,
7 yrs and a daughter, Andrew

LEWIS-CROSBY - On August 26th,
to Lucas and wife Frances - a son

Leanne, a daughter, Alayra Diana,
a sister to Sarah.

MURPHY - On August 26, 1983, to Sally
Mary, wife of Robert Murphy, a
brother to son James Alexander,

ROBERTS - On August 26th, a son

Matthew, a daughter, Emily

ROBERTS - On August 26th, at St
Thomas' Hospital, London, David
and a son, Thomas, George

ROBERTS - On August 26th, a son

Matthew, a daughter, Emily

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Lee

BBC 1

TV-am

8.00 *Cosfax* All News, sport, weather, travel information.
8.25 *Breakfast Time*, Frank Bough and Sue Cook provide the chitter between news at 6.30, 7.00, 8.00, 8.30; regional news at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45, 8.15; sport at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45, 8.15; *Breakfast* for the kitchen at 8.45 and 9.00.
9.00 *Scrooby Don Where Are You?* 9.20 *Blue Peter* Goes Silver, Highlights of the 1979 Egyptian expedition to swim the Red Sea, climb the Pyramids and be ejected by an unimpressed camel. 9.45 *Jackanory* (r) 10.00 *Willo the Wisp*, 10.05 *Tak the Hant*. 10.25 *Desperate Measures*.

1.00 *News*, weather, with Richard Whitehouse and Fern Britton. 1.27 *Financial Report* and submitted news. 1.30 *King Cole*. 1.35 *Eric-a-Brace*.
1.45 *The New Foresters*, Woodman Cliff Fennell and wood sculptor Greta Hopkinson work in the New Forest.
2.15 *Film: Pleasure Cove* (1978) Suffice it to say that this US TV-made film set at a hectic holiday paradise stars Tom Jones in a non-singing role as a rogue, conniving constable. Linda Hayden and Henry Guardino also appeared in what was meant to lead to a series halfway between *The Love Boat* and *Fantasy Island*.

3.50 *The Flying Boats*. During the First World War they were used to patrol the North Sea, and later, were flown as far as India.

4.20 *Play School* (as on BBC 2, 10.30am) 4.40 *Boo Cat*. Vintage cartoon comedy with more than a whisker of *Bikko* (r) 5.55 *John Craven's Newsround*. 5.10 *The Children of Destiny*, The 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet (r).

5.40 *News*, weather.

6.00 *South East at Six*.

6.25 *Brig's Bunny*.

6.35 *Doctor Who: Black Orchid*. Dr Peter Davison comes back down to Earth, circa 1925, in this two-part escape set at a country manor. (r)

7.00 *The Show Must Show*. Those who are less than impressed with the superficiality of this self-styled popular science-circus will perceive some sort of poetic justice in this edition, which installs presenters Maggie Philbin and John Craven as shop window dummies.

7.30 *Film: Hanging By a Thread* (1978) The title refers to the disabled cable car, still dangling 7,000 feet up a mountain side, though it could easily describe the over-stretched script. This uses *Patty Duke*, *Austin*, *Bert Convy*, *Sam Groom*, *Donne Mills* and *Cameron Mitchell*.

9.00 *News*, weather.

9.25 *The Life and Times of David Lloyd George*. Penultimate chapter of *Elaine Morgan's* incurably romantic drama and yet another case of consecutive scheduling on BBC this week. No less than 10 programmes today either carry on from yesterday, or continue tomorrow.

Meanwhile, *Prima Madam*, as Lloyd George, sweeps back to power in a coalition with the Tories, and determines to save the Irish Question. Last part, surprise, surprise, tomorrow (r).

10.25 *International Athletics*. Steves Oest and Cram were due to compete at tonight's invitation meeting in Koblenz, West Germany.

11.00 *News Headlines*.

11.10 *Flamingo Road*. The week's second visit to the Road (not quite America's Coronation Street) produces a disaster. *Sam* and *Fledgling* nose dive into the alligator-infested Everglades.

12.00 *Weather* and *closedown*.

EDUCATIONAL

10* LEVELS ... WHETHER OUT-OF-DOORS OR INDOORS, THE LEARNERS ARE ALL IN IT. *Breakfast Time* (r) 8.30am-9.00am, *Brave New Orange* 9.00am-9.30am, *Breakfast with Mrs. B* 9.30am-10.00am, *Breakfast with Mr. B* 10.00am-10.30am, *Breakfast with Mrs. B* 10.30am-11.00am, *Breakfast with Mr. B* 11.00am-11.30am, *Breakfast with Mrs. B* 11.30am-12.00pm, *Breakfast with Mr. B* 12.00pm-12.30pm, *Breakfast with Mrs. B* 12.30pm-1.00pm, *Breakfast with Mr. B* 1.00pm-1.30pm, *Breakfast with Mrs. B* 1.30pm-2.00pm, *Breakfast with Mr. B* 2.00pm-2.30pm, *Breakfast with Mrs. B* 2.30pm-3.00pm, *Breakfast with Mr. B* 3.00pm-3.30pm, *Breakfast with Mrs. B* 3.30pm-4.00pm, *Breakfast with Mr. B* 4.00pm-4.30pm, *Breakfast with Mrs. B* 4.30pm-5.00pm, *Breakfast with Mr. B* 5.00pm-5.30pm, *Breakfast with Mrs. B* 5.30pm-6.00pm, *Breakfast with Mr. B* 6.00pm-6.30pm, *Breakfast with Mrs. B* 6.30pm-7.00pm, *Breakfast with Mr. B* 7.00pm-7.30pm, *Breakfast with Mrs. B* 7.30pm-8.00pm, *Breakfast with Mr. B* 8.00pm-8.30pm, *Breakfast 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